

LITERARY GAZETTE

AND
Journal of Archaeology, Science, and Art.

N° 13—1856.

LONDON, SATURDAY, MAY 24TH.

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ON MONDAY next, May 26th, a LECTURE ON THE VARIETIES OF STONE USED FOR ARCHITECTURAL CARVING will be delivered by Mr. C. H. SMITH.

Hours of Admission, Seven o'clock. The Chair to be taken at Eight o'clock.

Cards may be had at the Rooms of the Museum.

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LONDON LIBRARY, 12, St. James's Square, THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Subscribers to the LONDON LIBRARY will be held in the Reading Room on SATURDAY, May 31, at 3 o'clock p.m., when, in addition to the usual business, the following motion will be brought forward by Mr. Sydney Gedge—viz.

"That this Library shall remain open until 10 o'clock p.m. on three days in each week, subject to such Regulations and Restrictions with regard to the Rooms Open, removal of Books from the Library, and attendance of the Officers and Servants, as the Committee shall from time to time think fit."

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Memoirs by the Right Hon. Sir Robert Peel, Bart., M.P., &c. Published by the Trustees of his Papers, Lord Mahon (now Earl Stanhope) and the Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P. Part I.—*The Roman Catholic Question, 1828-9.* Murray.

THERE is no subject more difficult of satisfactory investigation than human character. So various and complex are the motives which actuate a man, and so numerous and shifting, and yet so powerful, are the circumstances which surround him in his path of life, that it is almost hopeless for another to make a fair estimate of his conduct in any particular case, to say nothing of his whole career. Indeed, so great is the difficulty of analysing character, that it has become proverbial how few men are acquainted with themselves:—

"Into themselves how few, how few descend,
And act at home the free impartial friend!"

though they have all the advantage of knowing the most important items in the problem, if they have only the ability and the desire to deal with them honestly. It is a little unaccountable, then, that a large number of men should so eagerly take up, and so obstinately maintain, opinions affecting the good name of others of whom they know comparatively nothing; and that the more removed they are from the sphere of action of those whose conduct they judge—and therefore the less information they can possess on the subject—the more ready are they to assume the office of censor. This proneness to form and pronounce decided opinions on the character and conduct of others—especially of public men—without sufficient regard to our means of information, is a marked characteristic of Englishmen, and of late more so than ever. The habit is no doubt very much to be attributed to the free institutions under which we live; and, when properly exercised, is unquestionably not without its advantages. Somewhat like the so-called scepticism of Des Cartes, it has the effect of putting people upon inquiry, and very often of making those whose actions are to be canvassed more cautious in their procedure than otherwise they would be. But its tendency, when exercised in an unreasonable degree, is certainly hostile to the public virtue of our statesmen and other men of prominent position in the country. If imputations of the gross and wanton violation of duty for purposes of private advancement are indiscriminately launched at those who deserve them, and at those who merit the opposite, the effect cannot but be generally prejudicial, for it tends to confound the distinctions between right and wrong; and by denying praise where it is due, holds out an inducement to perpetrate the very offences which are the subject of our indignation. Of all our statesmen whose reputation has been thus cruelly and unjustly assailed, the late Sir Robert Peel stands foremost in every respect; and the Memoir now before us, written by himself, is intended as a vindication of his motives, and of the line of policy which he adopted in reference to the Catholic Emancipation Act of 1829. No other measure of his most laborious and useful life caused him so much pain, opposed as it was to his own most powerful predilections, and to the whole course of his previous political career. No other subjected him to so much calumny and misrepresentation.

The present volume shows how deeply and keenly he suffered from the virulence of the malignant attacks which then crowded upon him from all quarters. The "condemnation," he bitterly exclaims, "assumed every form, and varied in every degree, from friendly expostulation and the temperate expression of conscientious dissent, to the most violent abuse and the imputation of the basest motives." Now that the question has become historical, and may be regarded in a dispassionate light, there is perhaps not a single rational individual in these kingdoms who is not fully convinced of the upright and unselfish character of the author of that measure; nevertheless, it cannot be without interest to know all the circumstances which led him to adopt it; and these are fully disclosed in the present Memoir. But while there are now few, if any, persons disposed to question the purity of Sir Robert Peel's motives as a statesman, there are many who take refuge in the mitigated charge of glaring inconsistency, amounting to political immorality; or, at all events, exhibiting a character painfully insensible to all the moralities and proprieties of party. From this charge also we think the present volume must exonerate an acquittal by every candid reader. "A foolish consistency," it has been well said, "is the hobgoblin of little minds, adored by little statesmen and philosophers and divines;" and it is one of the noblest features of our great statesman, that he was unscared from what he conceived to be the path of his duty by homage to such an unworthy principle. We have "a reverence for our past act or word," says Emerson, "because the eyes of others have no other data for computing our orbit than our past acts, and we are loath to disappoint them." The feeling influences all men more or less, and in some degree is worthy; yet perhaps there is no higher instance of heroism in a statesman than when, from conscientious motives, he entirely disregards it in the discharge of his duty to the state.

The position of Sir Robert Peel in 1828, when the Catholic agitation was reaching its climax, was certainly one of extreme embarrassment and difficulty to a minister who desired to preserve all that he might of the Protestant institutions of the country, and, at the same time, was conscious that, without sacrificing them to some extent, it was impossible to preserve the integrity of the empire. It would be hard to conceive a more painful situation than that of Sir Robert (then Mr.) Peel, in this crisis of affairs. In Mr. Perceval's administration he was the foremost champion of the Protestant interest. Under Lord Liverpool he was, *par excellence*, the Protestant Chief Secretary for Ireland, as well as the most determined opponent of Mr. O'Connell, who was then fast rising into importance as an agitator. Upon the retirement of Mr. Abbott, the Speaker of the House of Commons, the University of Oxford elected the young statesman, as the most fitting and honest representative which that ultra-conservative body could procure in those troublous times. Venerable prelates and hoary-headed peers looked to him as the hope and stay of the nation, and of the good old cause, in the struggle which then was approaching. Nor could any man be more painfully alive to the dreadful chagrin, and the wide revulsion of feeling, that must ensue from the measure which he saw was every day becoming more and more inevitable:—

"I make the full admission," he says, "that, from the part I had uniformly taken, on the Catholic question—from the confidence reposed in me on that account—from my position in the Government—from my position in Parliament as the representative of the University of Oxford—that interest which I will call by the comprehensive name of the Protestant interest, had an especial claim upon my devotion and my faithful service. And if the duty which that acknowledged claim imposed upon me were this—that in a crisis of extreme difficulty I should calmly contemplate and compare the dangers with which the Protestant interest was threatened from different quarters—that I should advise the course which I believed to be the least unsafe—that having advised and adopted I should resolutely adhere to it—that I should disregard every selfish consideration—that I should prefer obloquy and reproach to the aggravation of existing evils, by concealing my real opinion, and by maintaining the false show of personal consistency—if this were the duty imposed upon me, I fearlessly assert that it was most faithfully and scrupulously discharged."

Sir Robert here discloses to us the embarrassments of his position, and the only way of dealing with them that, in his opinion, was worthy of an honest and patriotic man. This Memoir will enable the public to judge for itself, containing, as it does, all that is "necessary or useful for the complete elucidation of the events to which they refer." It consists almost wholly of private letters and memoranda, written at the time by the principal actors, amongst others by the Duke of Wellington, the Marquis of Wellesley, the Marquis of Anglesey, Mr. Lamb (afterwards Lord Melbourne), Mr. Gregory (Under Secretary for Ireland), Lord Francis Leveson Gower (then Chief Secretary for Ireland, and now Lord Ellesmere), and Dr. Lloyd, Bishop of Oxford, who had been Sir Robert's tutor at Christchurch. There are also numerous letters, written at the time, to these and other leading men, by Sir Robert himself; but in the Memoir, he has done little more than connect all this correspondence, and a few private memoranda on political subjects, by a very slight narrative of events, which was necessary to render them intelligible.

Prior to 1812 there had been no little agitation in Ireland, on the subject of the Roman Catholic claims to be admitted to an equality of civil rights with their Protestant fellow subjects; but the movement did not make much way in this country, or in Parliament, owing mainly to the obstinate determination of George III. to reject every proposition tending to the removal of civil disabilities from papists. In that year, however, that obstacle was removed by the king's insanity; and accordingly we find the advocates of concession immediately entering upon the final and memorable campaign, which lasted without intermission until 1829. In 1812, Mr. Canning declared himself strongly favourable to the Catholic claims. In the year following Lord Castlereagh took the same side. Every day converts were more numerous, and it soon became hopeless to form a government without including some of them:—

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VI.

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JOHN MURRAY, Albemarle Street.

LONDON, SATURDAY, MAY 24, 1856.

REVIEWS.

Memoirs by the Right Hon. Sir Robert Peel, Bart., M.P., &c. Published by the Trustees of his Papers, Lord Mahon (now Earl Stanhope) and the Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P. Part I.—*The Roman Catholic Question, 1828-9.* Murray.

There is no subject more difficult of satisfactory investigation than human character. So various and complex are the motives which actuate a man, and so numerous and shifting, and yet so powerful, are the circumstances which surround him in his path of life, that it is almost hopeless for another to make a fair estimate of his conduct in any particular case, to say nothing of his whole career. Indeed, so great is the difficulty of analysing character, that it has become proverbial how few men are acquainted with themselves:—

"Into themselves how few, how few descend,
And act at home the free impartial friend..."

though they have all the advantage of knowing the most important items in the problem, if they have only the ability and the desire to deal with them honestly. It is a little unaccountable, then, that a large number of men should so eagerly take up, and so obstinately maintain, opinions affecting the good name of others of whom they know comparatively nothing; and that the more removed they are from the sphere of action of those whose conduct they judge—and therefore the less information they can possess on the subject—the more ready are they to assume the office of censor. This proneness to form and pronounce decided opinions on the character and conduct of others—especially of public men—without sufficient regard to our means of information, is a marked characteristic of Englishmen, and of late more so than ever. The habit is no doubt very much to be attributed to the free institutions under which we live; and, when properly exercised, is unquestionably not without its advantages. Somewhat like the so-called scepticism of Des Cartes, it has the effect of putting people upon inquiry, and very often of making those whose actions are to be canvassed more cautious in their procedure than otherwise they would be. But its tendency, when exercised in an unreasonable degree, is certainly hostile to the public virtue of our statesmen and other men of prominent position in the country. If imputations of the gross and wanton violation of duty for purposes of private advancement are indiscriminately launched at those who deserve them, and at those who merit the opposite, the effect cannot but be generally prejudicial, for it tends to confound the distinctions between right and wrong; and by denying praise where it is due, holds out an inducement to perpetrate the very offences which are the subject of our indignation. Of all our statesmen whose reputation has been thus cruelly and unjustly assailed, the late Sir Robert Peel stands foremost in every respect; and the Memoir now before us, written by himself, is intended as a vindication of his motives, and of the line of policy which he adopted in reference to the Catholic Emancipation Act of 1829. No other measure of his most laborious and useful life caused him so much pain, opposed as it was to his own most powerful predilections, and to the whole course of his previous political career. No other subjected him to so much calumny and misrepresentation.

The present volume shows how deeply and keenly he suffered from the virulence of the malignant attacks which then crowded upon him from all quarters. The "condemnation," he bitterly exclaims, "assumed every form, and varied in every degree, from friendly expostulation and the temperate expression of conscientious dissent, to the most violent abuse and the imputation of the basest motives." Now that the question has become historical, and may be regarded in a dispassionate light, there is perhaps not a single rational individual in these kingdoms who is not fully convinced of the upright and unselfish character of the author of that measure; nevertheless, it cannot be without interest to know all the circumstances which led him to adopt it; and these are fully disclosed in the present Memoir. But while there are now few, if any, persons disposed to question the purity of Sir Robert Peel's motives as a statesman, there are many who take refuge in the mitigated charge of glaring inconsistency, amounting to political immorality; or, at all events, exhibiting a character painfully insensible to all the moralities and proprieties of party. From this charge also we think the present volume must extort an acquittal by every candid reader. "A foolish consistency," it has been well said, "is the hobgoblin of little minds, adored by little statesmen and philosophers and divines;" and it is one of the noblest features of our great statesman, that he was unscared from what he conceived to be the path of his duty by homage to such an unworthy principle. We have "a reverence for our past act or word," says Emerson, "because the eyes of others have no other data for computing our orbit than our past acts, and we are loath to disappoint them." The feeling influences all men more or less, and in some degree is worthy; yet perhaps there is no higher instance of heroism in a statesman than when, from conscientious motives, he entirely disengages it in the discharge of his duty to the state.

The position of Sir Robert Peel in 1828, when the Catholic agitation was reaching its climax, was certainly one of extreme embarrassment and difficulty to a minister who desired to preserve all that he might of the Protestant institutions of the country, and, at the same time, was conscious that, without sacrificing them to some extent, it was impossible to preserve the integrity of the empire. It would be hard to conceive a more painful situation than that of Sir Robert (then Mr.) Peel, in this crisis of affairs. In Mr. Perceval's administration he was the foremost champion of the Protestant interest. Under Lord Liverpool he was, *par excellence*, the Protestant Chief Secretary for Ireland, as well as the most determined opponent of Mr. O'Connell, who was then fast rising into importance as an agitator. Upon the retirement of Mr. Abbott, the Speaker of the House of Commons, the University of Oxford elected the young statesman, as the most fitting and honest representative which that ultra-conservative body could procure in those troublous times. Venerable prelates and hoary-headed peers looked to him as the hope and stay of the nation, and of the good old cause, in the struggle which then was approaching. Nor could any man be more painfully alive to the dreadful chagrin, and the wide revolution of feeling, that must ensue from the measure which he saw was every day becoming more and more inevitable:—

"I make the full admission," he says, "that, from the part I had uniformly taken, on the Catholic question—from the confidence reposed in me on that account—from my position in the Government—from my position in Parliament as the representative of the University of Oxford—that interest which I will call by the comprehensive name of the Protestant interest, had an especial claim upon my devotion and my faithful service. And if the duty which that acknowledged claim imposed upon me were this—that in a crisis of extreme difficulty I should calmly contemplate and compare the dangers with which the Protestant interest was threatened from different quarters—that I should advise the course which I believed to be the least unsafe—that having advised and adopted I should resolutely adhere to it—that I should disregard every selfish consideration—that I should prefer obloquy and reproach to the aggravation of existing evils, by concealing my real opinion, and by maintaining the false show of personal consistency—if this were the duty imposed upon me, I fearlessly assert that it was most faithfully and scrupulously discharged."

Sir Robert here discloses to us the embarrassments of his position, and the only way of dealing with them that, in his opinion, was worthy of an honest and patriotic man. This Memoir will enable the public to judge for itself, containing, as it does, all that is "necessary or useful for the complete elucidation of the events to which they refer." It consists almost wholly of private letters and memoranda, written at the time by the principal actors, amongst others by the Duke of Wellington, the Marquis of Wellesley, the Marquis of Anglesey, Mr. Lamb (afterwards Lord Melbourne), Mr. Gregory (Under Secretary for Ireland), Lord Francis Leveson Gower (then Chief Secretary for Ireland, and now Lord Ellesmere), and Dr. Lloyd, Bishop of Oxford, who had been Sir Robert's tutor at Christchurch. There are also numerous letters, written at the time, to these and other leading men, by Sir Robert himself; but in the Memoir, he has done little more than connect all this correspondence, and a few private memoranda on political subjects, by a very slight narrative of events, which was necessary to render them intelligible.

Prior to 1812 there had been no little agitation in Ireland, on the subject of the Roman Catholic claims to be admitted to an equality of civil rights with their Protestant fellow subjects; but the movement did not make much way in this country, or in Parliament, owing mainly to the obstinate determination of George III. to reject every proposition tending to the removal of civil disabilities from papists. In that year, however, that obstacle was removed by the king's insanity; and accordingly we find the advocates of concession immediately entering upon the final and memorable campaign, which lasted without intermission until 1829. In 1812, Mr. Canning declared himself strongly favourable to the Catholic claims. In the year following Lord Castlereagh took the same side. Every day converts were more numerous, and it soon became hopeless to form a government without including some of them:—

"If in the interval between the close of the year 1812 and the commencement of 1829, when the Roman Catholic Relief Bill was proposed to Parliament, the principle of united resistance to concession had been insisted on as the basis of an administration, the following persons, who in the course of that interval were employed in the official service of the Crown, must have been excluded—must, many of them at least, have been driven into opposition to a Government formed on the basis

of unqualified resistance to concession: Lord Castlereagh, Mr. Canning, Lord Aberdeen, Lord Wellesley, Lord Harrowby, Lord Melville, Lord Ripon, Lord Palmerston, Mr. Huskisson, Mr. Charles Wynn, Mr. Charles Grant, Lord Dudley, Mr. Vesey Fitzgerald, Mr. William Lamb, Lord Anglesey, Sir George Murray."

The signal defeat of the Government upon Lord John Russell's motion in favour of the repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts, prepared the way for Sir Francis Burdett's resolution, in 1828, which was to the effect that it was—

"expedient to consider the state of the laws affecting His Majesty's Roman Catholic subjects in Great Britain and Ireland, with a view to such a final and conciliatory adjustment as may be conducive to the peace and strength of the United Kingdom, to the stability of the Protestant Establishment, and to the general satisfaction and concord of all classes of His Majesty's subjects."

The memorable debate which ensued upon this resolution, even more than the majority of six by which it was carried against ministers, may be said to have decided the fate of the question:—

"The mere fact that the house of Commons had, for the first time in that Parliament, voted for the removal of the Roman Catholic Disabilities, is not alone to be adverted to in considering the bearing of that vote upon the policy of continued resistance to concession. The character of the discussion, and the names and relative weight and authority of those who took part in it, must also be duly estimated."

It was remarked, also, that not a single member who had spoken against the resolution had assumed, for a moment, that things could remain as they were. The only question really debated was simply what, under the alarming circumstances of the country, could be done to avert imminent danger, possibly civil war?—

"Without depreciating," says Sir Robert, "the abilities or authority of those who concurred with me in resisting the motion, any one acquainted with the state of the House of Commons at that time would readily admit, that the great preponderance of talent and of influence on the future decisions of the House of Commons was ranged on the other side."

"Of several facts significant of the progress of public opinion, and of the ultimate issue of the contest, this was not the least remarkable—that many of the younger members of the House of Commons who had previously taken a part against the Roman Catholic claims, followed the example of Mr. Brownlow and admitted the change of opinion; and that it very rarely, if ever, happened that the list of speakers against concession was reinforced by a young member even of ordinary ability."

Against such a strong and daily increasing tide of opposition, it was becoming more and more obviously hopeless to struggle any longer. It was then, to all human observation, the interest, as it certainly was the desire, of Sir Robert to retire from the Duke of Wellington's ministry; but in one short week after it had suffered the defeat upon Sir Francis Burdett's motion, the discussion took place on the bill for the disfranchisement of East Retford, which led to the retirement from office of Mr. Huskisson, Mr. Lamb, Lord Palmerston, Mr. Grant, and Lord Dudley. There can now be no question that the reason why he did not then resign his seat in the Cabinet was from a high sense of public duty, strengthened, no doubt, by the unbounded respect and confidence with which he regarded the Duke of Wellington, who was still at the head of affairs. Here is his own account of the matter:—

"The threatened danger to the Duke of Wellington's government from the retirement of Mr. Huskisson and his friends, and the real difficulty of constructing, from any combination of parties, any other government at that time, so recently after the breaking up of the administration over which Lord Ripon had presided, induced me not to insist upon retirement at the very moment when other members of the government were withdrawing, upon totally distinct grounds, their co-operation from the Duke of Wellington."

The Clare election, and the return of Mr. O'Connell, in opposition to Mr. Vesey Fitzgerald (the new President of the Board of Trade), was the new and, up to that time, the most formidable phase of the Catholic question. It was, indeed, as Sir Robert himself describes it, "the turning point"—

"Partes ubi se via findit in amba."

The correspondence between the Irish officials and the Home Secretary (Mr. Peel) discloses the most anomalous and terrible state of things in Ireland. O'Connell had so far succeeded in concentrating upon himself the hopes and the confidence, not only of the peasantry, but also of the bulk of the more respectable Roman Catholic population of Ireland, that the peace of the country might be said to have been in his keeping. Frequently it peeps out in the correspondence, that the main hope of the authorities was, that it was the interest of O'Connell to prevent any outbreak; and, in the case of the Clare election, "to prove that he was not returned by violence and intimidation, but by the quiet and peaceable choice of the people." Nevertheless, Lord Anglesey writes to Mr. Peel, that he had made ample military preparations for the approaching event:—

"There are," said his lordship, "at Ennis near 300 constabulary; at Clare Castle (close at hand), 47 artillery, with 2 six-pounders, 120 cavalry, 145 infantry; within a few hours, 183 cavalry, 1813 infantry; within thirty-six hours, 28 cavalry, 1367 infantry, 2 six-pounders. These are placed at the disposal of the general officer, as are also reserves, at a further distance, of one regiment of cavalry and above 800 infantry. If this cannot keep one county quiet, we are in a bad way."

The following is the letter in which Mr. Vesey Fitzgerald announces his defeat:—

"Mr. Vesey Fitzgerald to Mr. Peel.

"Ennis, July 5, 1828 (at night).
"My dear Peel.—The election, thank God, is over, and I do feel happy in its being terminated, notwithstanding its result."

"I have polled all the gentry and all the fifty pound freeholders—the gentry to a man."

"Of others I have polled a few tenants of —* only, my own, and not much besides what adhered to me in that way."

"All the great interests broke down, and the desertion has been universal. Such a scene as we have had! Such a tremendous prospect as it opens to us!

"My aim has been from the beginning to preserve good temper, and to keep down the feelings of my excited friends."

"The conduct of the priests has passed all that you could picture to yourself."

"The sheriff declared the numbers to-night. To go on would have been idle. I have kept on for five days, and it was a hopeless contest from the first. Everything was against me. Indeed, I do not understand how I have not been beaten by a greater majority."

"The sheriff has made a special return, and you will say a strange one; but it will force Parliament instantly to take it up. It states that I was proposed, being a Protestant, as a fit person to represent the county in Parliament; that Mr. O'Connell,

a Roman Catholic, was also proposed; that he, O'Connell, had declared before the sheriff that he was a Roman Catholic, and intended to continue a Roman Catholic.

"It states that a protest was made by the electors against his return; as well as the certificate that he was called to the bar as a Roman Catholic.

"It states the numbers for each candidate—and thus it leaves the return."

"I shall see you soon, I trust. I shall be able to get away from here, I hope, on Monday. I must have a day's rest, and one day to settle my accounts, and, as far as I can, arrange respecting them."

"I care not for anything since I have terminated the contest. For the degradation of the country I feel deeply, and the organization exhibited is so complete and so formidable, that no man can contemplate without alarm what is to follow in this wretched country. Ever yours affectionately,

"W. V. FITZGERALD."

A few days afterwards, Lord Anglesey writes to say that—

"Unless the King's Ministers (taking into consideration the alarming progress of organization, the unlimited power of the priests, and the complete control under which these are of the Association) should feel the necessity of no longer delaying their decision of the course to be pursued, I humbly conceive that the less notice is taken of the late occurrences in Clare the better, and I for one shall appear to treat it lightly, and as if it were an ordinary election contest. Its character, however, is far—very far otherwise, as Mr. Fitzgerald will fully detail to you."

Again, in the course of the same month, he says:—

"The priests are using very inflammatory language, and are certainly working upon the Catholics of the army. I think it important that the depots of Irish recruits should be gradually removed, under the appearance of being required to join their regiments, and that whatever regiments are sent here should be those of Scotland, or at all events of men not recruited in the south of Ireland. I desire Sir John Byng to convey this opinion to Lord Hill."

The state of Sir Robert's feelings at this time, in reference to the Catholic question, may be seen in the following extract from a letter which he wrote on the 11th August, 1828, to the Duke of Wellington. In it he says:—

"I have uniformly opposed what is called Catholic Emancipation, and have rested my opposition upon broad and uncompromising grounds."

"I wish I could say that my views upon the question were materially changed, and that I now believed that full concessions to the Roman Catholics could be made, either exempt from the dangers which I have apprehended from them, or productive of the full advantages which their advocates anticipate from the grant of them."

"But, whatever may be my opinion upon these points, I cannot deny that the state of Ireland under existing circumstances is most unsatisfactory; that it becomes necessary to make your choice between different kinds and different degrees of evil—to compare the actual danger resulting from the union and organization of the Roman Catholic body, and the incessant agitation in Ireland, with prospective and apprehended dangers to the constitution or religion of the country; and maturely to consider whether it may not be better to encounter every eventual risk of concession than to submit to the certain continuance, or rather perhaps the certain aggravation, of existing evils."

He soon saw that the time had come when concessions could no longer be delayed with safety to the empire at large; that sooner or later they must be made; and that, whatever might be their ultimate result, "there would be an advantage in the sincere and honest

* "This word in the MS. is illegible, and was marked with a 'query' by Sir Robert Peel.—Eds."

attempt to settle the question on just principles." He concludes the letter to the Duke by saying:—

"I do not merely volunteer my retirement at whatever may be the most convenient time; I do not merely give you the promise that out of office (be the sacrifice that I foresee, private and public, what they may) I will cordially co-operate with you in the settlement of this question, and cordially support your government; but I add to this my decided and deliberate opinion, that it will tend to the satisfactory adjustment of the question if the originating of it in the House of Commons, and the general superintendence of its progress, be committed to other hands than mine."

It was resolved, however, that a bill for Catholic relief should be adopted by Government, and that Mr. Peel should have the charge of it in the House of Commons. The bill, as everybody knows, was carried; and forthwith Mr. Peel relinquished the representation of the University of Oxford. But there were many of his constituents, however, who regarded his loss as a disgrace to the University, and at their entreaties he permitted himself again to be put in nomination as a candidate. We need not dwell upon his defeat by Sir Robert Inglis. There was not much significance in the fact, though there was a great deal in "the quality of the minority" which supported the defeated candidate:—

"Mr. Peel polled 146 votes less than Sir Robert Inglis, and had twice as many first-class men, 14 out of 20 professors, and 24 out of 28 prizemen (the 24 prizemen having gained 36 prizes!).

"Of Christ Church (the college of both candidates), Mr. Peel had 39 first-class men, his opponent only 8; he had also all the noblemen who voted; 4 deans out of 5, and 333 clergymen, as an argument for the 'No Popery' and 'Church in danger' gentlemen!"

It was necessary that Sir Robert should return to the House of Commons without delay; and there being a convenient vacancy at Westbury, he became a candidate for the honour of representing that not very distinguished constituency in the imperial Parliament. But even in that remote sequestered spot the ill fame of his treacheries and treasons had aroused Protestant indignation, and it required all the influence of Sir Manasseh Lopez (the patron of the borough) to secure his return. Sir Robert tells us that:—

"Sir Manasseh himself suffered in his person from one of the many missiles with which the Town-hall was assailed during the ceremony of the election. It was fortunate for me that that ceremony was not unduly protracted. Very shortly after my return had been declared by the proper officer, the arrival of a Protestant candidate in a chaise and four from London was announced. If he had entered the town a few hours earlier, it is highly probable that I should have fared no better at Westbury than I had done at Oxford."

Sir Robert devotes but a very few pages at the close of his Memoir to an express vindication of his acts and motives in this long-protracted struggle. He concludes in these words, which will find an echo in the breast of every reader:—

"I can with truth affirm, as I do solemnly affirm in the presence of Almighty God, 'to whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid,' that in advising and promoting the measures of 1829 I was swayed by no fear except the fear of public calamity, and that I acted throughout on a deep conviction that those measures were not only conducive to the general welfare, but that they had become imperatively necessary in order to avert from interests which had a special claim upon my support—the interests of the Church and of institutions con-

nected with the Church—an imminent and increasing danger.

"It may be that I was unconsciously influenced by motives less perfectly pure and disinterested—by the secret satisfaction of being,

‘————— when the waves went high,
A daring pilot in extremity.’

But at any rate, it was no ignoble ambition which prompted me to bear the brunt of a desperate conflict, and at the same time to submit to the sacrifice of everything dear to a public man, excepting the approval of his own conscience, and the hope of ultimate justice.

ROBERT PEEL."

We shall conclude this notice by a few words upon the editors' preface, which, though consisting of little more than two pages, is not a little curious in its way, as a specimen of style. If old Cobbett were still alive, he might find, in this little literary attempt of the literary executors of Sir Robert Peel, a sufficient number of examples to warrant him in immediately trying his hand at a new edition of his wonderful grammar. He certainly would find it hard to surpass them, even by the piquant passages which he selected from the writings of the statesmen and other celebrities of his own day. After alluding to the codicil of Sir Robert's will, by which they had authority to publish the volume now before us, the editors proceed to say, "Among the numerous MSS. thus committed to their charge, those which engaged the earliest and most especial attention of the editors were two *Narratives* or *Memoirs* drawn up by Sir Robert Peel, in his own handwriting, and placed together [they mean, no doubt, drawn up in his own handwriting, and placed together, by Sir Robert Peel]; the *first* [why not *one* instead of the *first*?] on the Roman Catholic question, the *second* [the other] on the Corn Laws. A short account of both has been given by Sir Robert himself at the beginning of the *former*, as contained in this volume."

"But," they continue "besides these two, there is a third, to which Sir Robert does not there advert, and which the order of time stands between them—a *Memoir*, drawn up probably at a much earlier period, and though of no great length, yet of high interest and value. It relates the circumstances that attended the formation of his first Ministry in 1834 and 1835, and comprises the letters that were despatched to him at Rome.

"These three *Memoirs* it is the intention of the Editors to publish. The first, as already stated, will be found in the present volume, and after a certain interval the other two will follow in their chronological series."

Of course, every person can understand the meaning of all this, for the facts are so simple that it would be difficult to make them obscure; but if style is of any importance nowadays, in a short preface to such a work as the present, such men as Lord Stanhope and Mr. Cardwell ought to have paid a little more attention to theirs than they seem to have done, when they wrote that, "after a certain interval the other two will follow in their chronological series." They probably mean to say, that after a certain interval, the "third" memoir—of which they had just been speaking, which in the order of time stands between the other two—and then, after another interval, the *Memoir* on the Corn Laws, will follow. If both are to be given to the public after the same interval—that is, if they are to be published at the same time, why talk of their coming out in "their chronological series;" and, after all, suppose there were no mistake about this "interval," what do the editors intend when they say that two books will

appear in their chronological series, the books being Nos. 2 and 3 of a series, in which No. 2 we are told was written before No. 1? But though it were quite clear that there was no obscurity as to whether the writers referred to the dates at which the works were written, or to the dates of the events which constitute their subject matter, the phrase itself—"their chronological series"—as applied to two books, is not what we might expect from such a writer as Lord Stanhope, or such a man as Mr. Cardwell.

Here is another specimen of queer writing—bearing in mind, of course, who are the writers. Speaking of the good effects of "well-considered delay" in the publication of these papers, they say—

"Such delay affords a proof that there are no party or personal motives to subserve; it allows the party spirit in all other quarters to subside; it both induces and enables every reader to contemplate every question in a calm, historic point of view."

Again:—

"According to the judgment of the present Editors, there are many things in the Peel Papers that ought not to be published as yet, and many things as affecting other persons that ought not to be published at all."

"Thus, as they hope, will they show themselves ever mindful of Sir Robert Peel's own and emphatic injunction, &c."

We had marked two or three other passages exhibiting similar carelessness in composition, which we refrain from citing, lest we should be considered hypercritical or captious. It may be thought, by some persons, that the instances which we have adduced are "not so very bad after all;" but if we are not to expect something like faultless writing, when a noble lord of great reputation in the literary world, and an ex-minister of some reputation in the political world, put their heads together over two pages of a prose preface, where are we to look for it? This is our apology for spending so much time on what is no doubt in itself somewhat trivial.

Poems. By Edward Capern, Rural Postman of Bideford, Devon. Bogue.

THE poetry of Edward Capern has the genuine freshness of nature without much pretension to the refinement of art. In a life of daily toil he has been accustomed to warble his wood-notes wild, the melody of which, though not at first meant for others to hear, might well please many listeners. The editor of the volume tells us that the poet is "a rural letter-carrier from Bideford to Buckland-Brewen and its neighbourhood, distributing the mail through a discursive walk of thirteen miles daily, including Sundays; for which his salary is ten shillings and sixpence per week." He has, it is added, a wife and two children; is contented, though poor; and blesses Providence for his lot. He is a sweet player on the flute, and in other respects displays genius which might, under other fortune, have been distinguished. In the lines which form the *envoio* to the collection, the author pleads with pleasing and manly modesty for a lenient judgment of his verses:—

"Try not his song with those who stand
The scholars of his native land;
For fortune treated him so rude,
When nine years old he tol'd for food.
Nature not Art hath stor'd his mind,
And nature hath been wondrous kind.
Now, if one sentence you approve,
A mother's smile, a wife's sweet love

Mov'd him to tie his thoughts in rhyme;
Theirs be the praise, and God's the time.
His simple aim is far beneath
A poet's fame or poet's wreath:
Enough if he through life has trod
And serv'd his neighbour and his God."

We quote, not as one of the best of the pieces, but as the most expressive of the life and the character of the author, part of a poem entitled *The Rural Postman*. It is a poem which Izaac Walton would have been delighted with, for its love of nature and its genial spirit:—

"O, the postman's is as pleasant a life
As any one's, I trow;
For day by day he wendeth his way,
Where a thousand wildlings grow.
He marketh the date of the snowdrop's birth,
And knows when the time is near
For white scented violets to gladden the earth,
And sweet primrose groups t' appear.
He can show you the spot where the hyacinth wild
Hangs out her bell blossoms o' blue;
And tell where the celandine's bright-eyed child
Fills her chalice with honey dew.
The purple-dyed violet, the hawthorn, and sloe,
The creepers that trail in the lane,
The dragon, the daisy, and clover-rose, too,
And buttercupps gilding the plain;
The foxglove, the robust, the gorse, and the thyme,
The heather and broom on the moor,
And the sweet honeysuckle that loveth to climb
The arch of the cottager's door.
He knoweth them all, and he loveth them well,
And others not half so d' wine fame,
For they hang round his life like a beautiful spell,
And light up his path with their flame.

"O, the postman's is as happy a life
As any one's, I trow;
Wand'ring away where dragon-flies play,
And brooks sing soft and slow;
And watching the lark as he soars on high,
To carol in yonder cloud,
"He sings in his labour, and why not I,"
The postman sings aloud.
And many a brace of humble rhymes
His pleasant soul hath made,
Of birds, and flowers, and happy times,
In sunshine and in shade.

The harvester, smiling, sees him pass,
"How goes the war?" quoth he;
And he stayeth his scythe in the corn or grass,
To learn what the news may be.
He honours the good, both rich and poor,
And jokes with each rosy-faced maid;
He nods at the aged dame at the door,
And patteh each urchin's head.
And little he thinks as he whistling goes,
To the march of some popular tune,
That beauty grows pale at the tramp of his shoes,
And sometimes as rosy as June.

"O, the postman's is as merry a life
As any one's, I trow;
Waking the hill with his musical trill,
From its crown to the base below.
For he windeth his horn where the blushing morn
First kisseth the green earth wide,
And snuffeth the breeze when the nodding trees
Stand strong in their forest pride.
He heareth the bee in the broad oak tree,
In quest of its honey-clad leaves,
And marks with delight when swallows alight
To build 'neath the cottager's eaves.
When forest tribes sing till green valleys ring,
With the soul-stirring music they make,
His spirit as free as the featherless sea,
Chants out o'er the meadow and brake.
When making his call at a nobleman's hall,
In garments bespattered and rade,
He thinks that sound health is the best of all wealth,
With a spirit in love with the good."

This pleasant picture has its reverse, however, and some of the troubles of his lot are described:—

"O, the postman's is as blessed a life
As any one's, I trow,
Leaving the stile, o'er many a mile,
Can blessedness bestow.
If tearing your way through a tangled wood,
Or dragging your limbs through a lawn—
If wading knee-deep through an angry flood,
Or a plough'd field withal some—
If sweating big drops 'neath a burning sun,
And shivering 'mid sleet and snow;
If drench'd to the skin with rain, be fun,
And can a joy bestow!
If toiling away through a weary week
(No six-day week, but seven),
Without one holy hour to seek
A resting place in heaven.—
If hearing the bells ring Sabbath chimes,
To bid us all repair
To church (as in the olden times),
And bend the knee in prayer,—

If in those bells he hears a voice,
"To thy delivery,
God says to every soul, 'Rejoice,'
But postman, not to thee."

Heigho! I come and go,
Heavy at heart, and weary O.
Heigho! Heigho!
Does any one pray for the postman?—No.
No! no! no! no!
Or he would not be rob'd of his Sabbath so."

The little book does not need any recommendation beyond its own merit; but it is only right to add that it has been published at the suggestion of some friends, in order that, by its sale, the humble poet may commence a little fund for the education of his family, and for making provision for his declining years.

Shakspeare; or, Sketches of our Social History in the Reign of Elizabeth. By G. W. Thornbury, Author of the 'History of the Buccaneers,' &c. &c. 2 vols. Longman and Co.

The commentators on Shakspeare are Legion. There is hardly a cranny of his works that has not been explored, an allusion left unexplained, or an obscurity in his text for which we have not a hundred conjectural readings. Yet much as has been done in the way of criticism and illustration, much is still doing, and much more remains to be done. Setting aside the emendations discovered by Mr. Collier, which have opened a source of controversy likely to embroil the critics for an indefinite time to come; and the labours of Mr. Halliwell, which have surrounded the plays of Shakspeare with endless literary and archaeological details for future editors to work upon; there is scarcely a single point of sight from which the poet and his times can be examined, that has not been occupied by antiquaries, philologists, and speculators. Learning and fancy have been alike expended upon a subject which past experience justifies us at last in assuming to be inexhaustible.

The design indicated in the title of the volume before us would seem to embrace the objects to which Douce and Drake more particularly directed their attention; and it does so, to a certain extent, but in a different form, and with less direct relation to the writings of Shakspeare. Mr. Thornbury proposes to introduce his readers to the customs and manners, the characters and modes of life of Shakspeare's England—that is to say, the England of the sixteenth century. The materials for such an inquiry are ample. They abound in the tracts of Dekker, Nash, Green, and Stubbes, in the satires of Hall and Marston, and many other works, including especially the comedies of Ben Jonson. Upon these and similar authorities Mr. Thornbury has chiefly relied in the preparation of his pictures of English life, at a period when the country had reached a height of glory it had never attained before, and when, on sea and on land, in the cabinet and on the stage, in her captains, her adventurers, her poets, philosophers, and politicians, she rivalled the Augustan splendours of antiquity. The vast quantity of small traits and minute information amassed by Mr. Thornbury, can be fully appreciated only by those readers who are already well acquainted with the interior history of the Elizabethan age. Perhaps, also, we should add, that it is only such readers who can detect wherein it is that he fails to satisfy the more comprehensive demands and higher aims of his undertaking. The obvious merit of the work consists in the scope and

versatility of its contents, which undoubtedly exhibit considerable industry in the collection and systematic grouping of the social and picturesque incidents of the age. For all popular purposes the volumes may be regarded as a successful attempt to bring familiarly before the public of the nineteenth century the special characteristics of their ancestors of the sixteenth. Reserving for a second notice a few points of criticism in reference to the mode and manner of the execution, it will be desirable, in the first instance, to show of what kind of matter the work consists.

The various features of the age are presented under separate heads or chapters, each containing, partly in the form of description, and partly by way of statement, occasionally discursive, and sometimes close and literal, all the information requisite to enable the reader to understand pretty fully the pleasures and occupations of the different classes of which the population was composed. The wide and rapid panorama embraces the court and the city; the mansions of the nobility and the booths of Bartholomew fair; the theatres and the ordinaries; the insolent watermen on the silent highway, and the thieves, cut-purses, and cheats that infested the streets and bawling kens; the garden houses and the prisons; royal progresses and yachts at Wapping; architecture, dress, diet, superstitions, street adventures, hawking, jousts, duels, and archery. It may be fairly conceded to Mr. Thornbury that he has touched more or less upon all the striking and distinctive aspects of the period, and gathered into his pages much curious and interesting matter.

Here is a peep into the streets to begin with:—

"The Elizabethan streets were filled by itinerant salesmen, many of whose trades have long since passed away; charcoal sellers from the country, buyers of old lace, sellers of 'hot peas,' and Irish apple-mongers. The open stalls were piled with rapiers, and targets, and Italian armour and poniards, and silk points, and ruffs, and feathers, roses for shoes, scarves, and a thousand other articles of finery now mouldering in quiet country vaults, or treasured here and there with wrong dates attached to them in the wardrobes of old show mansions.

"The paths were filled by jesting servingmen, French pages, and watermen, and wounded soldiers from the Dutch wars, Spanish gallants, Greek merchants; and here and there an astrologer or an alchemist come out for a moment to breathe a purer air than the poisonous atmosphere of his cellar or his turret, that reeked with fuming mercury. There were actors, and bear wards, masters of fence, bullies, and gentlemen pensioners, and gay citizens' wives, and *bona robas*, and falcons all bright, coloured, shifting, motley, and picturesque. There was no dull monotony and stereotype of dress, face, and manner; but a never-ending variety, shifting and brilliant as the dyes of a kaleidoscope. There were beards of all classes and professions,—the spruce, the pointed, the round, grey, black, and cream-coloured. All dress marked class: the 'prentice passes with his round cap and truncheon; the citizen with his trimmed gown and gold chain; the noble with his silk cloak, and scented doublet, gold spurs, and spangled feather; the needy adventurer with his rusty sword, and greasy buff, or half Indian robe; the scrivener with his rusty black coat and unfailing bag; the divine with his cassock and his bands; the yeoman with his unbarked staff; and the court lady rolling by in her ponderous gilded coach."

Turning from the city, we are carried into the country mansions of the nobility and gentry, upon which Mr. Thornbury furnishes

a variety of illustrative details. The descriptions are too lengthy to admit of extracts that would do justice to their merits; but a glance at an Elizabethan interior will show the accuracy with which the subject is treated:—

"There are rushes on the floor, and the fire-brands rest on the wings of brass pelicans; and there are old, dim mirrors on the wall, and oak buffets and carved screens, and the walls are panelled with his badge; and there are stone seats round the room, and the door is huge and clamped, and the embrasures of immense thickness. Without, the deer are feeding in the sunlight, and the boys are running at the quintain, or trying their bows; and there is a lady reading *Plato* at the window, where the rose struggles in. In the distance is a village of gable roofs and striped white walls; and a wedding procession is passing out across the meadows: the bride also, and the favours, and the pipers, and the fiddlers, are all coming to the Hall."

Tracing the adventures of a gallant through a day's amusement in old London, we find him rising about noon, according to Mr. Thornbury, although we suspect that few gallants were a-bed at that hour, and after carefully attiring his person in cherry satin, and blue taffeta, over which was thrown, with premeditated negligence, a rich velvet cloak, betaking himself, after a lusty breakfast, to the promenade at St. Paul's. Half-a-dozen turns in the "Mediterranean Aisle" suffice to enable him to display his bravery, and then he hurries on to talk Euphuisms to the milliners at the Exchange, to dip into the last new book at the stalls, or perhaps to indulge in the luxury of a few whiffs of tobacco at one of the new offices established for the sale of that fashionable novelty. By this time dinner hour has arrived, and he proceeds to one of the twelve-penny ordinaries, where, according to his humour, he makes a display of the latest oaths, boasts of his amours, or, sauntering up and down the room with his sword trailing after him, implies his contempt of the company. Dinner over, the gallant falls to dice or takes a hand at gleeck, or repairs again to Paul's Walk till three o'clock, when the theatres are opened. So fine a gentleman must, of course, have a stool upon the stage, where he can exhibit his magnificence to the whole audience. Passing through the tiring house, which gives him an opportunity of nodding to Shakspeare, or cracking a joke with Kempe, he flings down his sixpence and takes his seat. During the play he smokes, and superciliously criticises the performers with significant gestures. The play over, away to the Bear Garden or the tavern, and ending the night with a carouse, he is lighted home by a page or a drawer, with a murky lantern, if he is fortunate enough to escape the clutches of the watch.

But it must not be supposed that these gallants were mere ephemera after all. Most of them were educated to their peculiar mode of life, and were masters of many accomplishments. Let us see what requisites were necessary to constitute a perfect example of the well-known character, designated in the old chivalry as the Squire of Dames:—

"An accomplished squire of dames, in these days of refined gallantry, was required to play well on the viol de gambo, take part in a madrigal, dance all the complicated dances of the day, from the bounding *lavora* to the stately *pavon*, fence like a master, and ride like a Centaur. He must know how to hamstring a wild deer when at bay, and to cut it up when he had killed it. He was compelled to learn how to pen a sonnet and an

acrostic; know Italian and French; to be read in the poets, and to parley with his mistress in the Euphuistic language of the day. Besides this, he was compelled to play at tennis, shovel-board, bowls, gleeck, and *primero*; was expected to have visited Venice, and floated in a gondola, if not, to have served a campaign or so in the Low Countries."

Of the ladies we have numerous sketches, but perhaps that which will interest the largest circle of readers is the following account of their costly dresses:—

"The ladies not only painted and rouged but used false hair of various colours, which was frequently changed without regard to consistency; their locks were trained on wire frames, and wreathed with gold and silver curiously wrought. Besides this, they wore pendant ornaments of bugles and brooches, rings and jewels. To supply the great demand for wigs women went round to buy the tresses of country girls, and in London female thieves not unfrequently decoyed children up lonely archways and robbed them of their hair. Out of doors these mountains of art were crowned with French hoods, hats, caps, and kerchiefs. The artificer's wife flaunted in her velvet hat; the merchant's wife in her French hood; and the peasant in her taffety or wool hat, lined with silk and velvet. Cawls of gold and silver network or rich glittering tinsel were not uncommon; others wore lattice caps coming to a point above the forehead. Their ruffs were of the finest cambric, stiffly starched, and often in three or four layers, and frequently covered with quaint emblems or with stars of gold and silver thread. Some were wrought with borders of openwork and others with purled lace.

"The ladies often wore doublets and jerkins, tight-bosomed like a modern riding-habit and made jaunty like those of a page, buttoned down the breast, and trimmed with wings, welts, and pinions at the shoulders. The gowns of the finest cloth frequently cost 40s. a yard. They were embroidered with lace three fingers broad, or with velvet stripes; many wore trailing sleeves, others had them tight, slashed, and pointed, with silk ribbons tied in true-love knots. Some had long capes, faced with velvet, or fine-wrought silk taffety, and richly fringed; while others gowns were simply peaked down the back. The petticoats were of the finest cloth, but the greater part of taffety fringed with silk; and their kirtles were of the same rich materials.

"Their stockings were of all bright colours, curiously worked; and their slippers were of black, white, yellow, and green velvet, or of English or Spanish leather embroidered with gold and silver thread. The Elizabethan ladies were curious in scents, and peculiarly fond of musk and civet, sweet powders and pomanders, which they wore in chains. The lover knew of his mistress's approach a stone's cast off by an odour as of the dawn of spring. 'The bed,' says Stubbes, the Puritan, sneeringly, 'whereon they have laid their delicate bodies, the places where they have sat, the clothes and things which they have touched, shall smell a week, a month, and more after they be gone.'

"In the summer, a gentlewoman seldom stirred without a posy to smell at and one to stick in her breast. The beauties of England revelled in ear-rings, bracelets, chains, armlets, and gold-embroidered perfumed gloves—as women in most ages have.

"To keep them from sun-burning, they cast round their faces silk scarfs tasselled with gold, and, when they rode abroad, wore black velvet masks that fastened with agate clasps, or very enticing and attractive veils."

Paul's Walk was the grand resort of people of all classes, the centre of news, gossip, and scandal. At certain hours of the day it was always crowded. Mr. Thornbury's fancy picture of the groups assembled there presents, as far as it goes, a fair representation of the motley character of the scene:—

"Here comes by musingly, with careless gait, a poor poet, clad in velvet and satin, somewhat greasy, and with boots a little out at the toe. By his frequent anxious glances over his shoulder he seems to fear a bailiff. Behind him follows a player, dressed in a murrey cloth gown, faced down the front with grey rabbit skins, and his sleeves barred thick with lace. He holds up his robe to show his white taffeta hose and black silk stockings, a huge ruff surrounds his head, a glass brooch as big as the great seal fastens his small brimmed hat, and two boys in cloaks follow him, carrying his rapier and sword. His companion is a musician and the usher of a dancing-school; he wears a suit of watchet (blue) coloured taffety with a cloak daubed with coloured lace. Here stand a group of tradesmen, portly men in damask coats and gowns welted with velvet. They all bow as that old, white-headed, country gentleman passes, clad in russet and in a black coat, with five servingmen, strong and awkward, but dangerous to elbow, striding at his heels. After him—do not be startled, reader—is Sir John, an honest Windsor vicar, in company with the miller, glover, and smith of his village. They have come up to attend a trial, and have visited more than one tavern to drink luck to the suit, and, by a natural sequence, find the path too narrow for decent men. He is no Puritan or raiser of schisms; he is none of the best scholars, and is oftener in the ale-house than the pulpit; yet he reads a homily every Sunday and holiday, drinks with his neighbours, spends his money to make them friends, and sometimes on Sundays (misled by good fellows) says both Morning and Evening Prayer at once, and gives the villagers a whole afternoon to play in. He is rather testy too, and would not refuse a challenge from the village doctor if he sent it.

"That stealthy-looking man is a runaway bankrupt just returned from Ireland; he is suspiciously watching a gaping yeoman who has come to London to see the sights—Guildhall, the two Exchanges, the wax-works, Paul's, Charing-cross, the Boar at Billingsgate, the Fleet, and London Bridge. That fellow in greasy satin sleeves, and spectacles hanging in a copper case round his neck, is a (pawn) broker; on his arm is his wife, who flutters her fan affectedly and begs him to carry Pearl, the dog. Poor wretch! it is every moment, 'Husband, pick up my glove,' 'Husband, carry my scarf,' and this he calls a day's pleasure. The red-nosed fellow beyond is another country clergyman come up as a witness in a Westminster trial. He is well described by a satirist who knows him as—

"An honest vicar, and a kind consort,
That to the ale-house often would resort,
To have a game at tables now and then,
And drink his pot as soon as any man."

One of the most curious chapters is that upon the thieves, cheats, and beggars. Amongst these, the gipsies held a formidable prominence. They had become at one time so powerful, both by their numbers and their organization, as to baffle the authority of the justices in many parts of the country. They went about in companies, seventy or eighty strong, divided into small foraging parties, and, taking different roads, successfully invested a particular point to which the expedition was directed. Sometimes a few of them, gaily dressed, with morris-bells, coloured scarfs and spangles, would go forward to attract the people out of their houses, while others would take advantage of the opportunity to steal in and commit depredations. The professional beggars, not gipsies, were called Clapper Dudgeons, and formed a complete fraternity in themselves, having a network of communications through the low taverns, inns, stalling kennels, and houses for receiving stolen goods.

The Clapper Dudgeon, like other professional orders, had a special costume; a gown, and patched cloak, two greasy night-caps and

a hat, and a brown dish at his girdle. He was accompanied by a woman, who carried a pack at her back, and a trusty dog that ran at his heels. His staff, which looked peaceable enough as he tramped the road, was constructed to carry an iron hook at the end, with which he could snatch clothes and sheets out of open windows, draw down linen from lines, or, as occasion required, bring down the unwaried traveller at a single blow.

Lake Ngami; or, Explorations and Discoveries during Four Years' Wanderings in the Wilds of South-Western Africa. By Charles John Andersson. With a Map and Illustrations. Hurst and Blackett.

The discovery of Lake Ngami, in 1849, by Livingstone, Osswell, and Murray, has given a fresh impulse to South African travel. The map in this number of our journal shows what had previously been accomplished in the exploration of these regions.* Since 1849, the labours of Galton, Andersson, Cassiot, and Livingstone, have added much to our knowledge of African geography. Mr. Andersson accompanied Galton in the expedition of 1851, of which a narrative has already been published. The travellers had to retrace their steps on account of the drought, when within eight or ten days' journey from the lake. Mr. Galton returned to England soon afterwards, leaving his companion resolved to make another attempt at the earliest opportunity. This occurred in January, 1853, when Mr. Andersson again sailed from Cape Town to Walvisch bay, and thence proceeded inland, to complete the discovery of a route from the west coast to the Lake Ngami. The successful solution of this geographical problem, with an account of his adventures and explorations during both the expeditions, are recorded in this volume.

It may interest the reader first to learn something of the traveller's personal history and antecedents. In 1849, Mr. Andersson, a Swede by birth, but half an Englishman by parentage, came from Gothenbourg to Hull, with the intention of proceeding to Iceland, to gratify his zeal as a naturalist by studying the Northern Fauna. To tropical Africa his aspirations had long been directed, but the expenses of so far a journey had repressed his cherished longings for this field of enterprise. When he was actually making arrangements with a Hull whaling captain for a passage to the northern seas, a visit to London on private business fortunately brought within his reach the object of his desire and ambition. Through Sir Hyde Parker he was introduced to Mr. Galton, then on the point of setting out for the Cape, and to his proposal to join him in his projected expedition to Lake Ngami, with the welcome offer of all expenses being paid, the Swedish traveller joyfully acceded. Preparations were soon made, and in the beginning of April, 1850, they had left the shores of Old England. Of Mr. Andersson's personal qualifications for the arduous labour of African travel, his book on every page bears abundant proofs. The geographical and scientific statements of his narrative are amply confirmed by the reports of other explorers. He has tales also of personal adventure as a sportsman, compared with which the most marvellous stories of Gordon Cumming and Jules Gérard are quiet and easy exploits. Yet those who know the man, and who have witnessed his unassum-

ing modesty, will vouch for the truth of whatever he relates. Some of his strange encounters and hair-breadth escapes we shall presently quote, and they are but specimens of multitudes of similar adventures described in his narrative. The Geographical Society have been fortunate in obtaining the services of so daring as well as intelligent and persevering a traveller.

In the first expedition the countries of the Damaras and of the Ovambo, the former little known previously in Europe, and the latter wholly a terra incognita, were explored. Although Mr. Andersson's narrative contains new and remarkable matter concerning these regions, the interest of this part of the work has been greatly anticipated by the 'Tropical South Africa' of Galton. Our extracts will be from the latter part of the volume, descriptive of the author's second expedition, in which he succeeded in reaching the Lake Ngami by the new route. It was at Tunobis, marked on the sketch map, that Galton turned in 1851. The Griquas say that the lake is about ten days' journey beyond Tunobis, but various accidents, including a dangerous wound from a black rhinoceros, delayed Mr. Andersson long on the route. At length, however, after due precautions in making peace, through an interpreter and by means of presents, with the native king of the tribes of the district, the object of his hopes was reached, and we must quote the animated passage in which the first sight of the water is described:—

"I hoped to reach the Lake by the evening; but sunset found us still at a distance from the object of our enterprise. We encamped in a dense brake, near to which were several gigantic baobab trees, the first we had seen; the stems of some we judged to be from forty to sixty feet in circumference. Finding abundance of fuel, the wood was soon illuminated by numerous watch-fires, around which, besides my own party, were grouped many a merry and laughing savage, each with his shield planted as a guard behind him. Altogether, the scene was striking and picturesque.

"The return of daylight found us again on the move. The morning being cool and pleasant, and our goal near, the whole party was in high spirits, and we proceeded cheerily on our road. I myself kept well a-head in hope of obtaining the first glimpse of Ngami. The country hereabout was finely undulated; and in every distant vale with a defined border I thought I saw a lake. At last, a blue line of great extent appeared in the distance, and I made sure it was the long-sought object; but I was still doomed to disappointment. It turned out to be merely a large hollow in the rainy season filled with water, but now dry and covered by saline incrustations. Several valleys, separated from each other by ridges of sand, bearing a rank vegetation, were afterwards crossed. On reaching the top of one of these ridges, the natives, who were in advance of our party, suddenly came to a halt, and, pointing straight before them, exclaimed—'Ngami! Ngami!' In an instant I was with the men. There, indeed, at no very great distance, lay spread before me an immense sheet of water, only bounded by the horizon—the object of my ambition for years, and for which I had abandoned home and friends, and risked my life.

"The first sensation occasioned by this sight was very curious. Long as I had been prepared for the event, it now almost overwhelmed me. It was a mixture of pleasure and pain. My temples throbbed, and my heart beat so violently, that I was obliged to dismount, and lean against a tree for support, until the excitement had subsided. The reader will no doubt think that thus giving way to my feelings was very childish; but those who know that the first glimpse of some great object which we have read or dreamt of from earliest recollection is ever a moment of intensest

enjoyment, will forgive the transport." I felt unfeignedly thankful for the unbounded goodness and gracious assistance which I had experienced from Providence throughout the whole of this prolonged and perilous journey."

It still took an hour and a half to reach the shore of the lake, the mean appearance of which was somewhat disappointing. The water was shallow, and only approachable at a few places, on account of the mud and thick reeds. The party encamped on the south side of the Zouga, the stream which flows out of the lake, and seems to be the only outlet to its waters:—

"The Zouga continues to run in an easterly direction from the Lake for nearly a month's journey, or a distance of about three hundred miles, taking all the windings into account, when it is lost in an immense marsh or sand-flat, called, by some, Great Reed Vley. It is a perfect sea of reeds (with occasional openings), and affords a favourite resort to innumerable herds of buffaloes.

"About twenty miles before the Zouga ceases to flow, it expands into a lake, two to four miles broad, and about twelve or fifteen in extent. During the dry season, this river presents a series of pools with dry spaces between."

"The vegetation all along its course is varied and luxuriant, and in some places the scenery is quite charming; the banks of the river being often, to the very water's edge, covered with majestic trees of beautiful and dense foliage. The baobab is particularly conspicuous, attaining, not unfrequently, round its stem, a girth of from sixty to seventy-five feet."

The result of Mr. Andersson's exploration of the lake, which he navigated in canoes, is, that its whole circumference is between sixty and seventy geographical miles, its average breadth seven miles, and not exceeding nine at the widest parts. It is narrowest at the centre, and bulges out at the two ends. The southern and western shores are the most elevated, the northern being very flat, and the country round with comparatively little vegetation. The lake is fed at its northern extremity by the Teoge river, to the exploring of part of whose course the traveller directed his attention:—

"The main course of the Teoge is N.W., but it is so serpentine that, in thirteen days when I ascended it, travelling, on an average, five miles per day, and reckoning two and a quarter miles to the hour, I only made about one degree of latitude due north of the lake. As far as I proceeded, however, it was navigable with smaller craft; for only in three places that I can remember, did I find less than five feet of water, and, generally speaking, the depth was considerable. It must be recollected, however, that it was then at its greatest height. Though that portion of the Teoge ascended by me is narrow, I am told that, on approaching its source, it widens considerably (one of the many curious points in African geography); and the country on both sides is often inundated to a very great extent, frequently having the appearance of an endless lake, thickly overgrown with reeds and rushes, and dotted with islets covered with beautiful trees and shrubs."

Mr. Andersson heard reports of a great river running westward, to which he attached sufficient credit to record in his journal and indicate in his map. After mentioning the accounts of the natives, he says:—

"From these statements, the existence of a river, in all probability of great magnitude, and perhaps navigable to its very source, is nearly so, is so far authenticated that I have had no hesitation in laying it down on my map. Assuming that the Teoge and the Mukuru-Mukovana run parallel, though in contrary directions, at the distance from each other of two or three days' journey, as I was informed by the Griquas above-mentioned, there exists an almost uninterrupted

* See page 305.

navigation of several hundred miles, affording a comparatively easy transport to the sea-coast of the produce of a rich and fertile interior."

This is a matter to be determined by future explorers, and if true, may prove of vital interest to the commerce and civilization of these regions. After his voyage on the river Keoge, the author's notices of his geographical studies are scanty, and only a few pages are devoted to four months' wanderings in Great Namaqua-land, the bulk of the volume requiring condensation towards the close. Before quoting some of the sporting adventures, we give a glimpse of the life and manners of the natives of the newly explored regions. The day after arriving at Lake Ngami, the traveller paid his respects to the chief:—

"Having crossed the Zouga river, a few minutes' walk brought me to Batona-town, the capital and residence of Lecholétebé. I found the chief seated on a wooden stool, in the midst of forty or fifty of his followers, drinking coffee within a stout semi-circular palisading. He was attired in a half-European and half-barbarous costume; his lower extremities were immersed in a pair of wide mole-skin trousers; he had encased his feet in socks and 'veld' shoes, whilst from his shoulders depended gracefully a very handsome jackal caross. This latter, however, he almost immediately exchanged for waistcoat and jacket. Piet the Griqua, and a Bechuanaman, whom a trader (then at the Lake) had kindly placed at my disposal, were my interpreters. After the first salutations were over, I explained to the chief the motives of my visit, the friendly wishes of the British Government at the Cape, and so forth. He listened to my story with apparent attention, and in profound silence, eyeing me the whole time suspiciously."

Presents were distributed to the attendants, and the chief was propitiated with the gift of a double-barrelled pistol:—

"When Europeans first visited the Lake, they were, I am told, liberally entertained by Lecholétebé; but whatever civility he might have shown to strangers in former times, much cannot be said in favour of his hospitality at the present day. During my whole stay at the Lake, I never received from him so much as a handful of corn, or a cup of milk. On the contrary, he, whilst we ourselves were almost starving, was in the habit of begging food daily from me."

Of the customs and manners of the Namaquas and other tribes through whose territories he had journeyed, Mr. Anderson gives some account; but the reports of Mr. Moffat, Dr. Livingstone, and other missionaries long resident in South Africa, have made us familiar with such subjects, which are generally revolting and humiliating in detailed narrative. There are many interesting notices, however, in this portion of the work, and of enduring value compared with the more amusing stories of wild sports which occupy a large space in the narrative. We give the closing scene of a long battle with the black rhinoceros already mentioned, as having delayed the author's arrival at the Lake Ngami:—

"Having tumbled me over (in doing which her head, and the forepart of her body, owing to the violence of the charge, were half buried in the sand), and trampled on me with great violence, her fore-quarter passed over my body. Struggling for life, I seized my opportunity, and as she was recovering herself for a renewal of the charge, I scrambled out from between her hind legs. But the enraged beast had not yet done with me! Scarcely had I regained my feet before she struck me down a second time, and with her horn ripped up my right thigh (though not very deeply) from near the knee to the hip; with her fore feet, moreover, she

hit me a terrific blow on the left shoulder near the back of the neck. My ribs bent under the enormous weight and pressure, and for a moment, I must, as I believe, have lost consciousness—I have at least very indistinct notions of what afterwards took place. All I remember is, that when I raised my head, I heard a furious snorting and plunging amongst the neighbouring bushes. I now arose, though with great difficulty, and made my way, in the best manner I was able, towards a large tree near at hand, for shelter; but this precaution was needless; the beast, for the time at least, showed no inclination further to molest me. Either in the *mélée*, or owing to the confusion caused by her wounds, she had lost sight of me, or she felt satisfied with the revenge she had taken. Be that as it may, I escaped with life, though sadly wounded and severely bruised, in which disabled state I had great difficulty in getting back to my 'skárm'."

He had an equally narrow escape from a large black-maned lion, first fired at when about thirty paces distant:—

"On receiving the ball, he wheeled short about, and, with a terrific roar, bounded towards me. When within a few paces, he crouched as if about to spring, having his head embedded, so to say, between his fore-paws.

"Drawing a large hunting-knife and slipping it over the wrist of my right hand, I dropped on one knee, and, thus prepared, awaited his onset. It was an awful moment of suspense; and my situation was critical in the extreme. Still my presence of mind never for a moment forsook me—indeed, I felt that nothing but the most perfect coolness and absolute self-command would be of any avail. I would now have become the assailant; but as—owing to the intervening bushes, and clouds of dust raised by the lion's lashing his tail against the ground—I was unable to see his head, while to aim at any other part would have been madness, I refrained from firing. Whilst intently watching his every motion, he suddenly bounded towards me; but—whether it was owing to his not perceiving me, partially concealed as I was in the long grass—or to my instinctively throwing my body on one side—or to his miscalculating the distance—in making his last spring, he went clear over me, and alighted on the ground three or four paces beyond. Instantly, and without rising, I wheeled round on my knee, and discharged my second barrel; and, as his broadside was then towards me, lodged a ball in his shoulder, which it completely smashed. On receiving my second fire, he made another and more determined rush at me; but, owing to his disabled state, I happily avoided him. It was, however, only by a hair's breadth, for he passed me within arm's length. He afterwards scrambled into the thick cover beyond, where, as night was then approaching, I did not deem it prudent to pursue him."

A moonlight encounter with a troop of nineteen male elephants is one of the most graphic stories of adventures of this class. The whole is too long to quote, and we give the account only of the crisis of the scene. The leader caught sight of the barrel of the rifle when raised for a shot, and charged with trunk erect and ears spread:—

"It was now too late to think of flight, much less of slaying the savage beast. My own life was in imminent jeopardy; and seeing that, if I remained partially erect, he would inevitably seize me with his proboscis, I threw myself on my back with some violence; in which position, and without shouldering the rifle, I fired upwards at random towards his chest, uttering, at the same time, the most piercing shouts and cries. The change of position in all human probability saved my life; for, at the same instant, the trunk of the enraged animal descended precisely on the spot where I had been previously couched, sweeping away the stones (many of a large size) that formed the fore part of my 'skárm,' like so many pebbles. In another moment his broad fore-feet passed directly over my face."

"I now expected nothing short of being crushed to death. But imagine my relief, when, instead of renewing the charge, he swerved to the left, and moved off with considerable rapidity—most happily without my having received other injuries than a few bruises, occasioned by the falling of the stones. Under Providence, I attribute my extraordinary escape to the confusion of the animal caused by the wound I had inflicted on him, and to the cries elicited from me when in my utmost need."

We must forbear from further quotations, those we have given sufficing to show the entertainment to be derived from the work, while the scientific reader will be pleased with the accurate notices of the habits of the animals of all classes described. The volume has the advantage of being illustrated by Wolf, the Landseer of the scientific delineation both of animal and vegetable life.

We cannot conclude this notice more appropriately than by echoing the good wishes of the noble President of the Royal Geographical Society, in presenting to Mr. Anderson, at the anniversary meeting of last year, a portable box of surveying instruments, in recognition of his valuable labours—After mentioning that it was with a similar gift from the Society that Dr. Livingstone conducted many of his admirable observations, Lord Ellesmere thus addressed Mr. Anderson:—"May you have health, strength, and good fortune—I know the skill and the courage will not be wanting—to turn these instruments to similar account. The record of your anterior and recent journeys, and the additions they have produced to scientific and accurate knowledge, are already among the brightest pages of our journals. We have ample proof of your experience and perseverance, and admiring the spirit which animates you to seek again the rich field of exploration, in which you have won many triumphs, we look forward with hope and confidence to your return, with still ampler stores and higher honours."

Perversion; or, the Causes and Consequences of Infidelity. A Tale for the Times. 3 vols.

Smith, Elder, and Co.

THIS novel, rumour already whispers, is by the Rev. Mr. Conybeare, the writer of an article in the 'Edinburgh Review' on Church Parties, which made no little stir at the time of its appearance. The tale of 'Perversion' is designed, in a more popular form, to illustrate some of the phases of modern infidelity. In the various characters introduced, it is shown how infidelity is developed. In minds originally bad there is an eagerness to cast off moral restraints, and to indulge in sin unchecked by conscience and divine law. In better natures the deflecting influences are too often the inconsistencies, extravagances, or hypocrisies of those who call themselves Christians. In other cases infidelity is the result of difficulties suggested to a sceptical understanding as to the substance or the documents of the Christian Church. All these causes of infidelity, and the practical consequences to which they lead, are ably illustrated in the course of the tale. The author traces the career of his hero, Charles Bampton, from his first leaving his mother's house, through his school and college life, and during a few years, crowded with incidents, in the world, until he meets an early death at Seutari, whither he had gone to devote his services to the sick and wounded

in the late war. The active Christian charity which adorned the close of his life was the result of his deliverance from the infidel principles by which at college he had been perverted.

The story or main plot of the novel is exciting enough, but painful in its issues, and improbable in many of its incidents. But this was necessary in order to give opportunity for introducing the variety of topics which it was the author's design to discuss. Apart from these incidental discussions, the interest of the reader is far more directed to the fortunes of Armstrong *alias* Archer, the villain of the story, than to Charles Bampton, its ostensible hero. Armstrong was the bully of the school when Charles was in his early years. He then enters the army, and continues the coarse rough life of which his school days had given promise. When stationed at Chester, he runs off with the mistress of his colonel, and a sham marriage, as he supposed, is celebrated at a Welsh church, the clerk being bribed to personate the clergyman. It turns out, however, that the marriage is a good one, the parson having unexpectedly appeared at the church, and performed the ceremony. Armstrong goes to America, and there gets rid of his wife, by introducing her among the Mormons, to one of whose dignitaries she is married. Returned to England, and being left the heir of an uncle named Archer, he assumes that name, enters the University of Oxford, associates with Bampton, and other school acquaintances, without being recognised, and ultimately marries Charles's sister Clara. The return of Julia, his first wife, leads to a catastrophe. The proof of his former marriage is difficult, the parish record having been destroyed, and the case being otherwise skilfully managed by a clever and roguish lawyer. In obtaining the licence, however, he had sworn he was of age, and about the same time he had repudiated some debts on the plea of infancy. He was convicted of perjury, and on the new trial the bigamy was also established. After being imprisoned, he obtains a ticket of leave, and finally disappears, by transporting himself to America. Poor Clara Bampton, who had been corrupted by her profligate and infidel husband, destroys herself. The wild career of Archer, it may be supposed, from this brief outline of its course, is followed by the reader with more curiosity than that of the tamer Charles Bampton. The Mormon part of the story introduces subjects not yet familiar in works of fiction, and of a kind not likely to be of much practical advantage to readers of such books. But the description of the college life of Archer, and of the influences by which he was led to become an avowed infidel, is full of instruction and warning. The exposure of the evil and dangerous systems of infidelity now in vogue is very ably conducted by the author. In the account of the authors and books by which the perversion of young men at the universities is accomplished, the names of well-known writers of the day—such as Newman and Carlyle—are easily recognised:

"The friends of Mr. Dulcimer, senior, belonged to that advanced school of Socinians whose opinions are represented in the *Progressive Review*. They were 'liberal' *par excellence*, had all of them renounced everything of Christianity but the name, and many of them repudiated the name also, which (they thought) was calculated to create an invidious and superstitious distinction between themselves and gentlemen of the Hebrew persuasion. * * *

"They especially pressed upon him the teaching of their favourite author, Mr. Neulicht, who, after having passed through every known shade of Christian belief, had renounced his faith in revelation, and was at that time in the stage of deism. They assured him that this great author had raised a new and higher spirituality on the ruins of Christian fanaticism, and had established immutable morality on an irrefragable basis. Armstrong read Neulicht's books, but continued unconvinced. 'As to the spirituality you talk of,' he said to his friends, 'it is mere sentimentalism; very good, in its way, for those who have a taste for it; but to me it is simply unintelligible, when it rests on no external revelation; and I suspect, as Teufelsdröckh says, that it is all so much *bottled moonshine*.'

Who Teufelsdröckh is, will more clearly appear in the following extract:—

"Admirably expressed," exclaimed Armstrong. "And yet I am glad to see that you have the wisdom to adhere to common names, and not startle people by too abruptly proclaiming the naked truth. Where is the use of discarding the name of God, as Comte does? How much better to say that 'God is everything, and everything is God,' which comes to exactly the same thing, and yet does not shock the prejudices of those who are slaves to a name." 'Ah!' said Lyman, 'we have learnt our tactics there from some of the European philosophers, and especially from the great Teufelsdröckh, whom you just now quoted. Observe how skilfully he prepared the English public to listen to his pantheistic doctrines, by gradually insinuating them under the phrases of customary Christianity. See how he crept on from the guarded statements of his earlier essays to the open avowals contained in his later works of a creed diametrically opposed, both in morality and religion, to that of Christianity. And even yet there are many good, simple souls who read his 'Apotheosis of Oliver,' and think that he is an orthodox Puritan.'"

The works of Comte and his followers had borne a good share in fortifying him in his infidelity:—

"His favourite authors were Auguste Comte, and his English disciples; from whom he learnt with great satisfaction to reject the antiquated belief in creation and a Creator; and with still more pleasure he studied their convincing demonstration that the very notion of *sin* as applied to human conduct is absurd. They taught him that actions were only links in a chain of necessary events, for which man was no more to be praised or blamed than the apple for falling from the tree, or the wind for blowing it down. Nor did he fail to make the words of Mr. Atkinson his own: 'I am what I am. I cannot alter my will, or be other than what I am; and I cannot deserve either reward or punishment.' When he had firmly established these principles in his mind, he felt that he had at length attained that 'repose' which, as Miss Martineau assures us, 'begins to pervade the mind' when it has got rid of all notions of moral responsibility."

From the miserable superstition and empty formalism of "Ecclesiolatry" the revulsion to infidelity is frequent and almost natural. The author is as vehement in his denunciation, and as pointed in his ridicule of the opposite system of error into which the young are apt to be misled. Into this snare Charles Bampton fell at Oxford, and his fall was hastened by female influence, he being in love at the time with an academic belle, the daughter of one of the Dons:—

"She was also very romantic, very enthusiastic, passionately fond of music and poetry, and a most devoted disciple of Tractarian Orthodoxy. Indeed it may be remarked in passing, that this faith is peculiarly suited to young ladies; for it encourages and utilises their accomplishments, sets them upon embroidering altar cloths, illuminating prayer-books, elaborating surplices, practising church music, carving credence tables, and a hundred other innocent diversions, which it invests with the prestige of religious duty. And besides this, it imposes no cruel prohibition (like the rival creed) upon their favourite amusements; but commands the concert, smiles upon the ball, and does not even anathematise the theatre."

The dreariness of the average of university sermons diminishes surprise at the freedom of thought on religious subjects. Christian preachers deliver trite disquisitions, such as might have been heard in ancient pagan schools. Here is the summary of one to which Bampton and Archer listened on a 'Scarlet day,' before the University of Oxford, with the robes and insignia of academic display:—

"He gave a very learned account of the opinions of the ancient philosophers on the point; but in giving his own views he placed the chief strength of his cause on the impossibility of conceiving an actual destruction of the vital principle in anything which has once possessed it; and he anticipated the objection, that animals and vegetables possessed this vital principle as well as men, by replying that, so far as we knew, they also might be heirs of immortality. I confess I did not at first perceive the absurdity of all this till Archer, who met me coming out of church, asked me 'what I thought of the immortality of cabbages?'

Of the humour of the novel we give an example from the account of the German tutor, who came to take charge of Charles in the interval between leaving his first school and going to Eton. The first appearance of the German is too much of a caricature, but the scenes where he declares his love for his pupil's sister are most humorously described:—

"Schrecklich accompanied them to the beach. He was in a state of great exhilaration and excitement, to which, doubtless, champagne had contributed; and could he but find opportunity, he felt his courage equal to risk his fate in a bold attempt, on which he had long resolved, but from which secret misgivings had hitherto withheld him.

"He had for months past been deluding himself into the belief that Lucy Bampton looked upon him with favouring eyes. She was a girl of gentler spirit than her sister, and had felt for the poor tutor when Emily snubbed him. At such moments he had sometimes caught her compassionate looks fixed upon him, and had built thereon a very baseless vision of romantic attraction, spiritual gravitation, and stars shooting from their celestial orbits to irradiate the darkness of the nether sphere.

"Shortly after they reached the shore, Lucy, who had been boasting to her cousin of the beautiful shells found on their coast, left the rest to look at the sunset, and went round some projecting rocks to a sandy cove where the best specimens were generally thrown up. While eagerly turning over the sand and searching every nook, she suddenly saw Schrecklich's well-known awkward figure making towards her round a huge boulder of rock. In another moment he had flung himself on his knees before her."

The scene that took place may be imagined. Suffice it to say, that his dismissal speedily followed.

"So ended Schrecklich's career at Penry. Charles, who really liked him in spite of faults and peculiarities, accompanied him to the coach on the following morning, to see the last of his good-natured tutor; who departed with a heavy heart, cursing the prejudices of caste, the barriers of feudalism, and the soulless conventionalities of English aristocracy."

While the novel has on the whole given us much satisfaction, we must protest against gross exaggerations of statement and occasional heresies of opinion by which it is defaced. Two or three examples of these blots

must suffice. When Archer is finally got rid of by transporting him to the United States as a ticket-of-leave man, there was no call for a gratuitous insult to the American people in such strain as this:—

"He professes his intention of devoting himself to political life in his adopted country; and, with his talents, energy, and unscrupulousness, there can be little doubt that he will soon become a distinguished member of Congress. He has joined the ultra-democratic party, and gives out that he was a victim of aristocratic persecution in the old country. It is highly probable that he will some day return to this side of the Atlantic in a diplomatic capacity, like citizen Soule, and other European exiles of kindred character. Nor is it impossible that we may one day see him representing the United States of America at the court of St. James's."

Again, in his strong hostility to the extreme low church, or 'Recordite' party, as it is termed, the tenets and the habits of a section of the religious world are most unfairly ridiculed under the name of 'Evangelical.' The practical working Christianity of laymen, such as Lord Shaftesbury, as well as ecclesiastics, is duly praised by the author; but these men, while not ashamed of being called 'evangelicals,' would repudiate the sentimental or hypocritical religionism satirized under that appellation in this novel. These parts of the story are inferior in cleverness to what has been already written in the same strain by Mrs. Trollope and other authors, who may charitably be supposed to have done ignorantly what is here done with full knowledge, truly pious and actively useful Christians being held up to ridicule along with others who deserve to be so treated. The author of the article on the State of Parties in the Church of England ought to know well how diverse are the classes bearing the common name of evangelical; and that there are many who, without subscribing to the speculative tenets of the 'broad school of theology,' (which are, after all, only diluted Teufelsdrockism), with Charles Bampton at the close of his search after truth, "find Christianity a living and working power, not only professed in the pulpit and the Sunday school, but leavening the most secular transactions, penetrating the details of commerce, and influencing the relation between capital and labour." These last words show Mr. Conybeare's sympathy with the practical objects of which Mr. Kingsley has been a conspicuous champion. Some brief intimations of Charles Bampton's conclusions on certain doctrines indicate an approval of some of the views of Mr. Maurice and the broad school of theology, whose writings form the first steps of the descent from the platform of faith to the dangerous ground of rationalism. From the works of those who hold loose views of inspiration and of the authority of Scripture, literally understood, and of the peculiar doctrines of Christianity, the transition is easy to rationalism or spiritualism, and from that the descent is rapid to the slough of practical atheism. We wish the author had showed the former steps of perversion as clearly as he has the latter. The reader must not be frightened by the prominence given to these topics in our notice of the book, the drier portions of it only occurring amidst entertaining scenes of life at school, in barracks, at college, among the Mormons, and in what is called "the religious world." It really deserves to be entitled "a tale for the times," and is the ablest novel that has appeared for many a day.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The History of Greece under Ottoman and Venetian Domination. By George Finlay, LL.D. Blackwood and Sons.

Shakspeare's England; or, Sketches of our Social History in the Reign of Elizabeth. By G. W. Thornbury. 2 vols. Longman and Co.

Inventorium Sepulchrale: An Account of some Antiquities dug up in the County of Kent from A.D. 1757 to 1773. By the Rev. Bryan Faussett, of Heppington. Edited, from the Original Manuscript in the possession of Joseph Mayer, Esq., by Charles Roach Smith.

Voyage à Constantinople par l'Italie, la Sicile, et la Grèce, retour par le Mar Noire, la Roumétie, la Bulgarie, la Bessarabie Russie, les Provinces Danubiennes, la Hongrie, l'Autriche, et la Prusse, en 1853. Par M. Boucher de Perthes. 2 vols. Paris: Treutel et Wurtz.

A Summer in Northern Europe, including Sketches in Sweden, Norway, Finland, the Aland Islands, Gothland, &c. By Selina Bunbury. 2 vols. Hurst and Blackett.

Ismeer; or, Smyrna and its British Hospital in 1855. By a Lady. Madden.

Perversion; or, the Causes and Consequences of Infidelity. A Tale for the Times. 3 vols. Smith, Elder, and Co.

The Crown Ward. By Archibald Boyd. 3 vols. Bentley.

The Sorrows of Gentility. By Geraldine E. Jewsbury.

Journal of the Geological Society of Dublin, Vol. VII., Parts I and 2. Published by the Society.

Yarre Yarre; or, Tales of a Traveller. Being the Poetical Works of Albert M. Russell Kinahan. Hope and Co.

MR. FINLAY has now completed his valuable series of works on the History of Greece under foreign domination. He divides the records of Hellenic servitude into six periods:—1. Greece under the Romans. 2. The Byzantine empire. 3. Under the Crusaders who destroyed the Byzantine empire. 4. The Greek empire of Constantinople. 5. The empire of Trebizond. 6. The Ottoman and Venetian domination. Of the four volumes already published, the following are the subjects:—I. Greece under the Romans, B.C. 146 to A.D. 716. II. and III. The History of the Byzantine empire, A.D. 716 to 1204; with the History of the Greek Empire of Nicaea and Constantinople, A.D. 1204 to 1453. IV. Mediaeval Greece and Trebizond; or, the History of Greece from the Conquest by the Frank Crusaders to that of the Turks, 1204-1566, and the History of the Empire of Trebizond, 1204-1461, ('L. G.' 1853, p. 781; 1854, pp. 736, 749.) The present volume embraces a period that comes nearer to modern sympathy, and treats of subjects of immediate interest connected with the actual position and future prospects of Greece. Commencing with a history of the Ottoman and Venetian domination, Mr. Finlay continues his narrative through the eighteenth century, and illustrates the causes and events which prepared the Greeks for independence. The whole work may be regarded, and was designed by the author, as an introduction to the 'History of the Greek Revolution.' To understand the real condition of the Hellenic race, and to estimate aright the prospects of the modern kingdom of Greece, and the attempt to consolidate a system of civil liberty on the basis of national institutions, a knowledge is necessary of the topics discussed by Mr. Finlay in this volume. Of the social and literary progress of the Hellenic race, as well as its political fortunes, a clear account is given. Mr. Finlay has certainly too high an idea of the actual position of Greece, when he says that "the records of foreign domination might be extended to the year 1843, when a popular insurrection put an end to the domination of Bavarian officials, and rendered the Greeks the arbiters of their political organization." We fear that foreign domination is as powerful as before. But still the Revolution was a memorable epoch, and forms a well-marked period, at a safe distance from which Mr. Finlay terminates his narrative. The tenor of his prefatory remarks leads us to suppose that he intends to write a History of the Greek Revolution. The best work that has yet appeared in England on the subject was that by the late General Gordon, of Cairness, in Aberdeenshire. The *Ιστορία της Ελληνικής Ιπανστάσεως*, by Spiridon Tricoupi, the Greek minister in London, is the work of a patriotic as well as learned man, and a translation of his work, with notes, would probably satisfy English readers far more than a new work by any writer

less competent to do justice to the subject. Some passages from Tricoupi, are translated from the modern Greek in the notice of the work in the 'Lit. Gaz.' for 1853, p. 1069 (No. 1920).

The liberality and public spirit of Mr. Mayer have not ceased with the acquisition of the Faussett collection of antiquities for the town of Liverpool. He has now published the catalogue of these historical treasures in a style worthy of their curiosity and value. The journal of Bryan Faussett is printed in full, with an introduction and notes by one of the most competent editors that could have been found, Mr. C. Roach Smith. Besides numerous woodcuts, there are twenty plates, with engravings, some of them richly coloured, of the most remarkable objects in the collection. The notices of the history of the collection, and of its original possessor, will be read with much interest. The perusal of this splendid volume renews the sore and unavailing regret at the loss of the collection to the British Museum by the obtuseness of the Trustees, who "were not to be persuaded," and "were not to be dictated to," in a matter in which every archaeologist felt that it was their duty and advantage to purchase. At the same time, it is probable that had the collection fallen into the hands of the Trustees of the British Museum, we should never have obtained the work which now will perpetuate at once the archaeological zeal of Mr. Faussett and the liberality of Mr. Mayer.

The travels of M. Boucher de Perthes were performed in the summer of 1853, and not the least interesting feature of his book is, that it describes the condition of places, since world-famous, as they were just before the war broke out. The first volume is chiefly occupied with the narrative of journeys on the more familiar soil of Italy. The second volume has greater novelty and interest, and describes in lively style scenes better known now in Western Europe than when M. Boucher de Perthes made his journey.

Miss Bunbury, who has already published a report of Life in Sweden, in these volumes presents sketches of a Summer Tour in various parts of the lands of the Baltic, including Norway, Finland, Gothland, and the Aland Islands. These are countries now familiarly known from the books of many travellers, and little novelty is to be looked for in the description of them. Miss Bunbury's style is more that of an ordinary novel than of a book of travels. The little incidents of her tour are minutely narrated, and commented on with unrestrained volubility. The descriptive passages and historical notes will interest those who are not familiar with other books of Scandinavian travel.

Of the proceedings of the British nurses at Scutari and some of the other military stations an account has already been published. The present volume gives a most interesting report of the work of the detachment of these ministers of charity at the hospital of Ismeer or Smyrna. The facts and incidents are taken from notes and letters written at the time, and are not merely vague recollections strung together to form a book. It is one of the valuable records of the events and of the experience of the late war.

The Crown Ward is a tale of the times of the last days of Queen Elizabeth and of the accession of James I. Scottish scenes, narrated in the lowland vernacular, occupy a large part of the novel, which will increase its attractiveness to some readers while repelling others. The story belongs to an epoch of great historical interest, and abounds in stirring incidents and notable characters.

Parts I. and II. of the seventh volume of the Journal of the Geological Society of Dublin contain important papers, including one on the localities of Fossils of the Carboniferous Limestone of Ireland, by John Kelly, Esq.; Notes on the Classification of the Devonian and Carboniferous Rocks of the South of Ireland, by J. Beete Jukes, Esq., and J. W. Salter, Esq.; and a paper on the Occurrence of Permian Magnesian Limestone at Tullyconnel, near Artrea, County Tyrone, by Professor William King, Queen's College, Galway; Descriptions of the Irish Permian Fossils, with plates, accompany the paper. Part II. also contains

the Address by the President, Lord Talbot de Malahide, at the Anniversary Meeting, Feb. 13, 1856. Part I. is entirely occupied with Mr. Kelly's list of localities of fossils, a most useful guide to geologists in Ireland.

New Editions.

Noctes Ambrosiana. By Professor Wilson. Vol. 4. Blackwood and Sons.
Select Works of Thomas Chalmers, D.D., LL.D. Edited by his Son-in-law, the Rev. William Hanna, LL.D. Vol. VIII. Constable and Co.
Goethe's Faust. The First Part. With an Analytical Translation and Etymological and Grammatical Notes. By L. E. Peithmann, LL.D. Second Edition, Revised and Improved. Williams and Norgate.
Schnorr's Bible Pictures. English Edition. Parts 7 and 8. Williams and Norgate.
The Phantom Regiment; or, Stories of "Ours." By James Grant. Hodgeson.
The Redan: A Poem. By R. M. Beverley. Second Edition. Hamilton and Co.

The fourth volume of the works of Professor Wilson, edited by his son-in-law, Professor Ferrier, completes the select *Noctes Ambrosiana*. These papers are certainly a mine of wit and wisdom, but the precious ore has to be extracted from not a little rubbish, in which process the English reader has trouble from the strangeness of the dialect. In Scotland the *Noctes* retain all their popularity. An Index and a Glossary are appended to this volume, which also contains the notorious Chaldee manuscript. The republication of this *jeu d'esprit* in the collected works of Wilson is to be regretted by all who have respect for his memory. The literary importance is exaggerated by the editor, who forgets how small in national interest now seem the provincial squabbles which suggested it. Professor Ferrier thinks it quite sufficient justification that "it contains no real malevolence or serious bitterness, and that it was the overflowing of an exuberant hilarity." Exuberant hilarity might have excused the youthful writer of the piece, but can scarcely be pleaded as an actual defence of an irreverent travesty of the style, and in some places of the most sacred words of Scripture. It was suppressed soon after publication, and its reappearance can only gratify the survivors of a grosser epoch of social life in Edinburgh, of which it is a literary relic.

The eighth volume of the Select Works of Dr. Chalmers, by his son-in-law, Dr. Hanna, contains the second part of the Institutes of Theology, being the substance of his academical lectures, now complete in two volumes of this edition. To the Institutes are appended four addresses, delivered in the New College, Edinburgh, at the opening of the classes in sessions 1843-46.

Mr. Peithmann's *Faust* is the best of its kind that we have seen. To the student of German, who has mastered the leading principles of the grammar of the language, it will be invaluable, as enabling him thoroughly to get at the meaning of the author with just enough of effort to keep the attention constantly on the alert, and not too much to fatigue or distract. That its value has been felt, is indeed sufficiently shown by the call for this second edition.

Of the publication of Schnorr's *Bible Pictures*, from the original wood blocks, with English descriptive letter-press, we have spoken with warm commendation on the series being commenced, ('Lit. Gaz.', 1855, p. 649). Eight parts are now issued, and the work will be completed in about thirty numbers, each containing six engravings. The pictures are such as will arrest and fix the attention of the young, while many of them are striking and suggestive as works of art.

Miscellaneous, Pamphlets, &c.

Post-Office Directory of Gloucestershire, with Bath, Bristol, Herefordshire, and Shropshire. Kelly and Co.
The Israelitish Authorship of the Sinaitic Inscriptions vindicated against the Incorrect 'Observations' in the 'Sinai and Palestine' of the Rev. A. Penrhyn Stanley, M.A. A Letter to the Right Hon. the Lord Lyndhurst. By the Rev. Charles Forster, B.D. Bentley.
A Catechism of Music for the Use of Young Children. By Gertrude Place. Bosworth and Harrison.
The Gathering Storm; or, Britain's Homeward Course. A Warning and Appeal to British Protestants. By the Rev. E. Marcus Dill, A.M., M.D. Groombridge and Sons.

The Philosophy of the Stomach. Illustrated by Experiments upon Himself. By Bernard Moncrieff. Longman and Co.
Asiatic Cholera: An Inquiry into its Nature, and How to Deal with It. A Popular Exposition. By Robert Pairman. Edinburgh: Sutherland and Knox.

The proprietors of the London Post-office Directory are extending the benefit of their useful publications, and the present volume, including Gloucestershire, with Bath and Bristol, is a worthy companion to the other works from the same source. Of the accuracy of the details of the volume we have not the means of judging, as of those relating to districts nearer home, but the care of the publishers, and the experience of their agents and collectors, give every guarantee for the completeness and correctness of the book.

The *Musical Catechism* contains a clear and simple exposition of the rudiments of music for young pupils. A list of Italian and French terms in common use is appended.

While vegetarians are busily spreading their doctrines, Mr. Moncrieff advocates total abstinence from every article of vegetable produce, and strenuously maintains that exclusive animal diet is the most wholesome and fit for man. The author says his essay is the result of experiments on himself. He might have prefixed a portrait, as well as the views of the interior, so that the results of the purely carnivorous system might be more apparent. Some of the facts and arguments of the book are remarkable enough, and one conclusion to which they lead is to increase our surprise at the accommodating power of the human stomach, which is decidedly that of an omnivorous animal, taking Mr. Moncrieff's experience as the opposite pole to that of strictly herbivorous specimens of humanity.

The lecture on Cholera, by Mr. Pairman, was delivered before the Athenaeum of Biggar, in Scotland. Recent reports announce the occurrence of some cases in the north, and in prospect of a threatened outbreak this popular exposition may be read and circulated with advantage. Though not satisfactory on some points, the remarks on the contagious character of the disease, and on its symptoms, are worthy of attention.

Foreign Summary.

A very interesting work by Baron von Pronay has lately appeared, entitled 'Sketches of Peasant Life in Hungary.' This species of national literature is very valuable. Sketches drawn from the life as these are, open a new field of experience; one is carried into a world entirely different from our own, and breathes another atmosphere. Novel and strange characters present themselves, a fresh page of life is unfolded, and new sympathies are awakened. Baron von Pronay has shown consummate skill in his delineation of Hungarian characteristics; his portraits are true to nature, and will afford much pleasure and instruction to those who are interested in national peculiarities.

Dr. Auerbach has lately published a new collection of tales. His stories have become so familiar to English readers through Mr. Taylor's translations, that it is hardly necessary to say that he is one of the most popular writers of modern romance. His present work consists of one hundred tales, under the title of the 'Godfather's Treasure Chest.' The first part of the book consists of about thirty entirely new productions; the second, of stories which have already appeared in different periodicals from the years 1845 to 1849, and are now for the first time collected. This book bids fair to rank among the best productions of this favourite author.

A useful and interesting work, by Dr. Eisenlohe, has appeared at Heidelberg, entitled 'A Collection of the Laws and International Treaties for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Property in Germany, France, and England.' It will be valuable in the present state of uncertainty and want of clearness in the international copyright laws between England and Germany.

Dr. Springer, formerly of Prague, but who has for the last few years resided at Bonn, has just

published a 'Handbook of the History of Art.' Dr. Springer does not appear for the first time as a writer on art; he has already made a name for himself in German literature, by his 'Letters on the History of Art,' and his 'Architecture of the Middle Ages.' The present work appears with ninety-three well-executed illustrations and several plans. The object of the author is to make the history of art more popular and more easily intelligible to the great mass of readers, a valuable and rare quality in this country, where deep and learned works on the subject frequently appear, but generally encumbered with such a host of technicalities, and written in such complicated language, that the uninitiated, who are neither artists nor students of art, are often repelled from them by the difficulty and labours of extracting the simple ideas.

M. Stanislas Julien, of Paris, has produced a translation of a Chinese work, published in 1815, on the History and Manufacture of Porcelain. It is very curious in many respects, and says, amongst other things, that the art of making porcelain was known in China so far back as the epoch comprised between 185 years before and 87 after Jesus Christ.

'The History of Costume, Architecture, Household Furniture, and Utensils, from the Earliest Time to the Present Day,' is the title of a very useful and much-required book, which is now being brought out in numbers, by the firm of Ebner and Seubert, in Stuttgart. It is by Hermann Weiss, a scholar of Kugler, and is profusely illustrated with original drawings by the author. Kugler had for a long time been most anxious to direct the attention of artists to a more accurate and detailed study of the treatment of costume; he succeeded in getting a chair founded for this branch of art in the Academy in Berlin, and the office of lecturer was given to Herr Weiss. Few men of the present day were better fitted for the task; Herr Weiss had devoted all his life to this particular study, and had already produced a valuable work on costume, &c., in Africa. In the present undertaking the author begins with the primitive clothing of Adam and Eve, and proceeds from the inhabitants of the primeval forests of India, to the Bushmen, Hottentots, and Kaffirs, then to the Egyptians and Ethiopians. The first number contains eight sheets, and costs about half-a-crown.

A valuable work has lately appeared in Brunswick, from the pen of Professor Hettner, a profound historian and acute critic on art, who has lately been transferred from the University of Jena to the city of Dresden, entitled 'History of Literature of the Eighteenth Century.' It is to consist of three parts, the first of which (just published) is on the English Literature of the Eighteenth Century. Professor Hettner's book is written in a liberal spirit, and in clear and concise language, and merits not only the perusal of the German student in its present form, but deserves to be translated into English.

'Art and Literature, with Contributions from the most celebrated Artists and Poets of the Day,' is the title of a work published at Düsseldorf, and edited by Alexander Kaufmann. It was originated by Max Waldau, the poet and novelist, and at his death undertaken by Kaufmann. It is, if one may use the expression, a kind of "permanent exhibition" of modern art and literature in Germany. The first number contains a pen-and-ink sketch by A. Achenbach, remarkable alike for the beauty of its composition and the finish of its execution, an Italian evening landscape, by O. Achenbach, and pictures by several other of the Düsseldorf artists; there are in all seven illustrations, and seventeen sheets of text. The latter is contributed by Bechstein, Von Schack, Otto Roquette, Grappe, and writers whose names are well known here. There are also some remains of Max Waldau. The work is very well got up, but rather dear for Germany, viz. 32. 12s., a volume of three numbers.

An interesting and really valuable work on 'The Purity of the Art of Building,' by Herr Forchhammer, has just been published at Kiel. The author endeavours to show the applicability

and suitability of the four different principal styles of architecture, viz., the Egyptian, Greek, Roman, and Gothic, to the different countries, climates, and spaces afforded for the erection of the building, and materials used in the different countries, the book is written in clear and concise language and will be found a most practical aid to the architect.

List of New Books.

Ames's (A.) Trial of the Earl of Somerset, 8vo, cloth, 5s.
Boulle's Sermons, 12mo, cloth, 2s.
Chester's (Rev. J.) Essays, 12mo, cloth, 3s. 6d.
Cowley's (Rev. M. B.) University Sermons, 8vo, cloth, 5s.
Crown Ward (The) by A. Boyd, 3 vols. post 8vo, cloth, 5l. 11s. 6d.
East India Register, 2nd Edition, 1856, sewed, 10s.; bound, 11s. 6d.
Ferrier's (J. P.) Institutes of Metaphysic, post 8vo, cl., 10s. 6d.
Forster's (C.) Israelitish Authorship of the Sinaitic Inscriptions, 8s.
Fullom's (S. W.) Daughter of the Night, 12mo, boards, 1s. 6d.
Gathering (The) by A. Boyd, 3 vols. post 8vo, cloth, 1s. 4d.
Gill's (Rev. W.) Geography of the Islands, post 8vo, Vol. 2, 5s.
Gurney's (F. S.) Memoir, by S. Carter, post 8vo, cloth, 5s.
Guy's (Madame) Life, post 8vo, cloth, 2nd edition, 7s. 6d.
Hall's (K.) Sacrifice, 12mo, cloth, 7s. 6d.
Hibbert's (E.) Epitome of the War, 12mo, boards, 3s. 6d.
Immer's; or, Smyrna and its Hospital in 1855, post 8vo, cl., 10s. 6d.
Londonderry's Feminist War, post 8vo, cloth, 3s. 6d.
Lyon's (W. P.) Millennium Studies, new edition, fcap. 8vo, cl., 4s.
McCombie's (W.) Hours of Light and Delight, fcap. 8vo, cl., 4s.
Maitland's (W. W.) History of the Antiquated Versions of the Bible, 12mo, cl., 6s.
Morehead's (G.) Diseases of India, 2 vols. 8vo, cloth, 2s. 6d.
Newell's (R. V. H.) Seasons of the Church, Vol. 1, fcap., cloth, 5s.
Palmer's (M. V. W.) Church History, new edition, fcap., cl., 4s. 6d.
Parson's (B.) Mental and Moral Dignity of Woman, fcap. 8vo, 5s.
Perversion, 3 vols., post 8vo, cloth, 1l. 11s. 6d.
Rees's (G. O.) on Calculous Disease, 8vo, cloth, 5s.
Taylor's (W. C.) Student's Manual of Modern History, 8vo, cl., 6s.
Victory Won, new edition, 12mo, cloth, 1s. 6d.
Wolseley's (Rev. R.) Five Empires, 10th edition, 12mo, cl., 3s. 6d.

ARTICLES AND COMMUNICATIONS.

TAYLOR, THE WATER POET.

The following memoir of the famed Water-Poet has been suggested by the publication of his rare ballad, which appeared in our Number of the 26th April, p. 209:—

John Taylor, the *Water Poet*, as he called himself, was born in Gloucestershire, A.D. 1580, but at what place is not told. He was early taken from school and apprenticed to a Thames waterman, an avocation so much in request in those days, that, he himself says, the number of watermen betwixt the bridge of Windsor and Gravesend could not be fewer than 40,000. This seems a large number, but Taylor is speaking in a time of peace. During war the number was much less, the watermen being constantly in request to man the fleet. Of this our poet was himself an example, for he had made no fewer than sixteen voyages in the Queen's ships, and was with Essex at Cadiz and the Azores.

One peculiar source of emolument to this huge fraternity was the ferrying people to and from the Bankside, where, at one time, there were not less than three theatres, besides the bear-baiting garden, and when it came to pass that two out of the three companies of players removed to the Middlesex side, the watermen were reduced to great distress. To mitigate this, in 1613 they petitioned the king that the players might not be allowed to have a playhouse in London, nor within four miles of it, on that side the river. John Taylor was chosen to deliver this not very reasonable petition. A counter-petition was presented by the players, and a day was fixed for determining the business, but in the meantime the Chief Commissioner, Sir Julius Caesar, being made Master of the Rolls, the case never came to a further hearing.

Another source of discontent with the watermen were the proclamations issued from time to time, requiring the gentry to retire from London and live upon their estates. This greatly impoverished the poor watermen, and their calling was shortly after almost ruined by the introduction of hackney coaches.

Taylor and his fellows made fight against these encroachments for some time, and the former laboured hard in a pamphlet he put forth, called 'The World runnes on Wheeles,' to throw ridicule on what he terms 'hyred hackney hell-carts,' but all to no purpose, the public cared more to consult their own convenience than the interests of the watermen, and coaches carried the day.

Speaking of this period of Taylor's career, Southey observes:— "But before this unfavourable change in his circumstances was felt, he had become known as the *Water Poet*. His own account of the manner in which he took to the rhyming trade, may be understood to mean, that he was led to it by an imitative impulse, to his own surprise, and not very early in life.

"I call in quiet in the days of yore,
Did get my living at the healthful oare;
And with content did live, and sweat, and rowe,
Where like the tyde, my purse did ebb and flowe.
My fare was good, I thank me my bounteous Fares,
And pleasure made me careless of my care,
The watry element most plentiful,
Supplide me daily with the oare and scull,
And what the water yelded, I with mirth
Did spend upon the Element of earth,
Until at last a strange Poetique veine,
A strange way posset my working braine,
It chid me one evening on a Reedy bank
The Muses sete together in a ranke:
Whilst in my boat I did by water warden,
Repeating lines of Hero and Leander;
The *Triple three* tooke great delight in that,
Call'd me ashore, and caus'd me sit and chat:
And in the end, when all our talk was done,
They gave to me a draught of Helicon;
Which prov'd to me a blessing and a curse,
To fill my pate with verse and empt my purse."

His occupation gave him ample leisure for reading, and, as Southey remarks, "there are many in these days who set up, not alone for simple authors in prose and rhyme, but as critics by profession, upon a much smaller stock of book-knowledge than Taylor the Water Poet had lain in."

Although a boon companion of shrewd wit, fluent with tongue and pen, and a favourite of many persons of high rank, he appears to have had enough to do to keep his head above the element he lived on, and "whether from the itch of imitation or the love of adventure, or want of other employment, and the desire of gain, engaged at different times in expeditions which were characterized by some singularity, or some difficulty and even danger. Such undertakings were not uncommon at that time."

These wagering adventures were a favourite method of gambling in those days. They consisted in laying a small sum against a much larger (taking the odds, as we phrase it, of three, or five, or ten to one, as the case might be), that the adventurer would perform a certain voyage or journey in a given time, or under circumstances involving labour and peril. If he failed, he of course forfeited the amount deposited; if he performed the undertaking, he pocketed, or rather he had a right to pocket, the larger stakes laid against him. One of the expeditions of this nature which Taylor engaged in was "A very merry wherry-ferry voyage" from London to York. Forced by stress of weather to put in at Cromer, he and his men were seized as pirates.

"They did examine me, I answered than
I was John Taylor, and a Waterman;
And that my honest fellow, Job, and I,
Were servants to King James his Majesty,
How we to Yorke upon a Mart were bound,
And that we landed fearing to be drown'd.
When all this would not satisfy the Crew,
I freely op'd my Trunk and bade them view;
I shewed them Books of Chronicles and Kings,
Some prose, some verse, some idle meditations.
I shew'd them all my letters to the full,
Some to Yorke's Archbishop, and some to Hull."

The people, however, would not be satisfied till the invaders were examined before the magistrates. These gentlemen (Sir Austin Palgrave and Mr. Robert Kempe) knew the Water Poet by name, and had read some of his books; so, after administering the oath of allegiance to him and his men, and giving them corn and wine, they allowed them to depart.

"Then 3 A'clock at afternoon and past,
I was Discharged from Cromer at the last."

With much difficulty Taylor and his men reached Boston, but from thence they were enabled to get to Hull by inland navigation. Here they were welcomed and entertained by the people and the mayor and aldermen; and, after a jovial stay, were escorted

"With best of townsmen to the waterside."

From thence they proceeded to Cawood, and on to York.

In the next year he made another wagering voyage, from London to Christchurch in Hampshire, and up the river to Salisbury. This adventure he styled "A Discovery by Sea from London to Salisbury," and in this, the worst and most dangerous passage he had ever made, they nearly perished.

At one time he undertook a voyage to Hamburg. At another, to travel from London to Edinburgh on foot, "not carrying any money to or fro; neither begging, borrowing, or asking meat, drink, or lodging." He published a long account of this exploit, entitled "The Pennyless Pilgrimage, or the Moneyless Perambulation of John Taylor, alias the King's Majesty's Water Poet." "This journey," he tells us, "was undertaken, neither in imitation or emulation of any man, but only devised by myself, on purpose to make trial of my friends both in the kingdom of England and that of Scotland, and because I would be an eye-witness of divers things which I had heard of that country. And wheras many shallow-brained critics do lay an aspersion on me that I was set on by others, or that I did undergo this project either in malice or mockery of Master Benjamin Johnson, I vow, by the faith of a Christian, that their imaginations are all wild; for he is a gentleman to whom I am so much obliged for many undeserved courtesies that I have received from him, and from others by his favour, that I durst never to be so impudent or ungrateful as either to suffer any man's persuasions or mine own castigation to make me to make so bad a requital for so much goodness."

This was the easiest and most amusing of all his adventures, but it is much too long for us. The last and most desperate of his wagering undertakings was to go from London to Queenborough in a paper boat, with two stock-fish for oars! His companion in this mad enterprise was Roger Bird, a vintner. They took with them eight large and well-blown bladders, a precaution quite necessary; for, before they had proceeded three miles, the paper bottom of their boat went to pieces, and they had only the skeleton and their bladders to trust to. In this deplorable plight,

"The water four miles broad, no oars to row,
Night dark, and where we were we did not know;
And thus 'twixt doubt and fear, hope and despair,
I fell to work, and Roger Bird to prayer.
And as the surges up and down did heave us,
He cried, most fervently, 'Good Lord receive us.'"

They were on the water from Saturday at evening-tide till Monday morning, when they reached Queenborough. They arrived on the fair day, when the mayor entertained all comers with bread, beer, and oysters. They presented him with the skeleton of their boat; but while they were feasting, the country people tore it to fragments, each wishing to keep a bit in memory of the strange adventure.

Poor Taylor appears to have been scurvy treated by those through whom he was tempted to undertake these insane exploits. In his "Scourge for Baseness, a Kicksey-Winsey, or a Lerry-cum-Twang," he complains bitterly of the way many of his debtors served him.

"I made my journey for no other ends
But to get money and to try my friends;
And not a friend I had, for worth or wit;
Did take my books, or past his worth or writ;
But I (with thankfulness) still understood
They took in hope to give, and doe me good.
They took a books worth 12 pence, and were bound
To give a Crowne, an Angell, or a pound,
A Noble, piece, or half-piece, what they list,
They past their words or freely set their list.
Thus got I sixteen hundred hand and fifty,
Which summe I did suppose was somewhat thrifly,
And now my youths with shifts, and tricks, and cavila,
About seven hundred, play the sharking Javilis;
I have performed what I undertooke,
And that they should keep touch with me I looke;
Four thousand and five hundred bookees I gave
To many an honest man, and many a knave;
Which books and my expence to give them out,
(A long yeare seeking this confusid rout),
I'm sure it cost me severall score pounds and more,
With some suspition that I went out score.
Besides above a thousand miles I went,
And (though no man) yet much time I spent;
Taking excessive labour and great pains,
In heat, cold, wet, and dry, with feet and brains."
"When the troubles came on, the Water Poet,

[May 24, '56]

who had often tasted of the royal bounty, was too honest and too brave a man to turn with the tide; he left London, therefore, and returned to Oxford. He had formerly found shelter there during a plague, an account of which he published, and dated from Oriel College. He now opened a victualling-house there, and employed his pen against the Roundheads, and made himself, it is said, 'much esteemed for his facetious company.' Upon the surrender of Oxford and the ruin of the royal cause, he returned to Westminster, and kept a public-house in Phoenix-alley, near Long Acre, where, after the king's death, he set up a Mourning Crown for his sign. This, however, he found it necessary to move, and then he hung up his own portrait in its stead. His health and spirits he retained to a good old age, and when more than seventy made a journey through Wales, in the year 1652, and published an account of it. Two years afterwards he died at the age of seventy-four, and was buried in the churchyard of St. Paul's, Covent Garden."

The epitaph composed on him is as follows:—

"Here lies the Water Poet, honest John,
Who rowed in the streams of Helicon;
Where, having many rocks and dangers past,
He at the haven of Heaven arrived at last."

Apart from considerations of his obscure origin, his mean position, and his consequent want of mental culture, John Taylor, as a poet, is not entitled to particular distinction. He wrote much, and he wrote with facility; had words, and sometimes wit, though of a coarse kind, at will; was a ready, dexterous rhymester; and a search through his numerous pieces may discover a few verses which are deserving better companionship than they will be found in. But he was deficient in taste, sentiment, and imagination, and his works are valuable rather for the help they afford in elucidating obscure and obsolete expressions in other old writers than from their own intrinsic merits. In this respect, indeed, they are peculiarly serviceable. Taylor was a shrewd, clear-headed man, lived a bustling, active life, was the pet of the poets and players of his day, and his works abound with allusions and observations which throw much light upon the manners, the language, and the costume of that remarkable period.

In 1630 he made a collection of his writings, and published them in a folio volume, entitled, 'All the Works of John Taylor, the Water Poet. Being Sixty and three in Number, Collected into one Volume by the Author: With sundry new Additions, corrected, revised, and newly Imprinted. 1650.' The volume contains about 650 pages, two-thirds of which are closely-printed verse, and is now so scarce that a perfect copy in fine condition will fetch from 14*l.* to 16*l.*

GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

THE Council of the Royal Society has recommended the following gentlemen for election into the Society out of the list of candidates:—John Hutton Balfour, M.D.; Edward W. Binney, Esq.; Sir John Bowring; Sir John Fox Burgoyne, Bart.; Philip Henry Gosse, Esq.; Robert Harkness, Esq.; Caesar Henry Hawkins, Esq.; Manuel John Johnson, Esq.; John Carrick Moore, Esq.; Henry Minchin Noad, Esq.; Edmund Potter, Esq.; Rev. T. Romney Robinson, D.D.; Henry Hyde Salter, M.D.; Archibald Smith, Esq.; Captain Thomas A. B. Spratt, R.N. In consequence of the 29th having been appointed for the general illumination, the Royal Society will not meet on that day.

The meeting of the Geological Society, appointed to be held on Wednesday last, was postponed, we regret to announce, until next Wednesday, in consequence of the serious illness of the President.

The Annual Conversazioni of the President of the Institution of Civil Engineers will be held at the rooms in Great George Street, on Tuesday.

The President of the Geographical Society will on Monday deliver his Annual Address, and make the following honorary awards. The Founders' Gold Medal to Dr. E. Kane, of the United States, for his

services and discoveries in the Polar Regions during two American Expeditions in search of Sir John Franklin and his companions, and for his Memoirs and Charts communicated to the Society. The Patrons' Gold Medal to Dr. Barth, for his explorations in Central Africa, his numerous excursions round Lake Chad, his discovery of the great river Benue, and his adventurous journey to Timbuctoo. And a Silver Watch to Corporal Church, of the Royal Sappers and Miners, for his excellent observations while attached to the Central African Mission.

As some misunderstanding appears to exist as to the contemplated removal of the Learned Societies from Somerset House, we think it right to state the case plainly as it now stands. The recent deputation to the Treasury was composed of gentlemen forming the council and officers of the Royal Society, the Society of Antiquaries, the Astronomical Society, and the Geological Society. The Secretary of the Treasury explained the proposal of the Government, that all the Societies located in Somerset House should remove to Burlington House. He then gave a description of the general accommodation that could be offered, admitting that the arrangement could only be proposed as a temporary measure, liable to reconsideration in the event of Burlington House being rebuilt. The deputation from the Societies objected to removal, especially to a temporary removal. The Antiquaries observed that their apartments had been assigned to them by the Government, coeval with the Royal Society, and expressly adapted to their use, the ceilings being marked with their initials. They had no desire to be removed, but, if their rooms were required by the Government, and adequate accommodation were offered them elsewhere, the proposal would receive their respectful consideration. The Secretary of the Treasury stated that it had been understood that there was a general wish on the part of the Societies to remove from their present location, but as this, on hearing the sentiments of the deputation, appeared not to be the fact, he believed the Government had no desire to disturb them. The official movement, headed by Lord Rosse, as President of the Royal Society, in favour of the general juxtaposition of the Learned Societies, therefore falls to the ground.

A report has been published of the competitive examination for the office of Professorship of the Celtic languages in Queen's college, Galway. There were four candidates, and John O'Beirne Crowe, B.A., Queen's University, was the successful competitor. The Rev. Dr. Todd, the Rev. Dr. Graves, and Professor O'Donovan, were the examiners. The examination paper included passages to be translated from English into Irish, and from Irish into English, questions on Irish grammar and literature, Celtic philology, history, and palaeography. What proportion of the questions was answered is not stated, but a moderate acquaintance with the subjects set down would indicate sufficient qualification for the office.

We regret to notice the announcement in the Scotch papers of the death, on the 19th inst., of James Wilson, Esq., one of the authors of the 'Rod and the Gun,' of a 'Tour round the North of Scotland,' and of many papers in scientific periodicals on entomology, ichthyology, and other branches of natural history. The article on Entomology, in the 'Encyclopaedia Britannica,' has been reprinted from the eighth edition, and forms a separate part complete in itself, a work of high scientific authority (See 'L. G.', 1855, p. 521). In one of the most pleasant conversations of the 'Noctes Ambrosianae,' Christopher North says, "I never knew a naturalist who was a bad man," and adds, "Cuvier is a most amiable character, and we need not go far from Edinburgh to find the best of men and of naturalists united in one whom it is needless to name." Although fraternal affection prompted this graceful allusion, it truly indicates a man who had the respect and love of all who knew him. Along with his scientific attainments, he had a geniality and humour which made him the most pleasant of companions as a field naturalist.

The Rev. Adam Baynes has very liberally pre-

sented to the British Museum the whole of the correspondence of his ancestor, Captain Adam Baynes, an officer in the army of the Parliament, and subsequently Commissioner for Inland Revenue during the Protectorate. Many of these letters have formed the subject of repeated communication to the Society of Antiquaries, by Mr. Akerman, their Secretary, and are printed in the Society's Proceedings, and we believe a volume containing the Scotch correspondence, edited by that gentleman, is now about to be printed by the Roxburgh Club. These letters amount to many hundreds, and extend over a period of about ten years—namely, from the death of Charles I. to the restoration of his son. Among them are letters of General Monk; Colonel R. Lilburne, the Regicide; General Lambert and his wife; Sir William Killigrew; Admiral Lawson, &c. &c. There are also the title deeds of the royal property purchased by Captain Baynes, including Holdenby in Northamptonshire, Pickering and Scaby, and Aycliff, Great Burden, and Billingham.

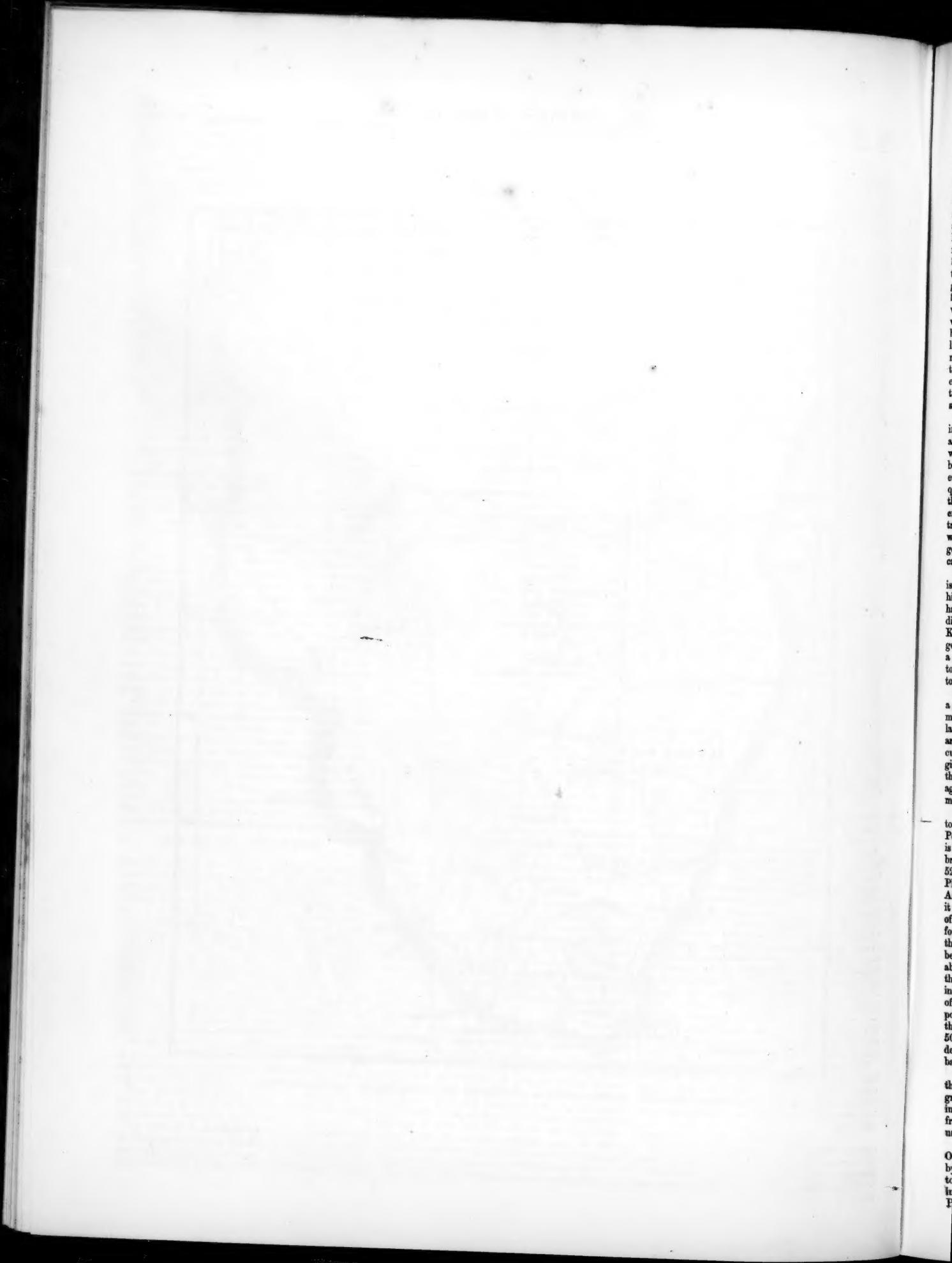
A very interesting Anglo-Saxon psalter, formerly preserved among the manuscripts of the library of La Sainte Chapelle, at Bourges, and now in the Bibliothèque Impériale, has apparently escaped the notice of the English antiquary. It is a folio volume of 196 pages, on parchment, and contains the Latin psalter, with an Anglo-Saxon version on the opposite page. On some of the first pages are designs traced with a pen. After the psalter follows several sacred canticles, the symbol of Saint Athanasius, and the Litanies of the Saints. The copyist has subscribed his work thus:—"Hoc psalteri carmen inclyti regis David sacer Dei Wulfrinus, id est cognomenti Cada, manu sus conscripsit. Quicunque legiter scriptum, anime sue expedit votum." This manuscript, which is supposed by M. Leopold Delisle to be of the eleventh century, appears to have been made for a lady. At page 195 is the following prayer,—"Te deprecor, Domine, michi famule (vel famulo) tue (vel tuo) et famulatu tuis per intercessionem, etc." At the end the Duc de Berri has written the following words:—"Ce livre est au duc de Berri: JEAN." The volume is decorated with the arms of France and Auvergne. The latter have been confounded with those of Boulogne,—the Counts of Boulogne and Auvergne having in the fourteenth century held the same possessions. The absence of the names of several of the Anglo-Saxon saints has led some palaeographists to assign a date so early as the seventh century to this manuscript, but M. Delisle is of opinion that the litanies belong to the Gallic liturgy, and that the absence of the names of certain Anglo-Saxon saints is thus accounted for. In the litanies of this volume the name of Saint Martial occupies a place on the same line with the apostles!

We have seen the prospectus of a company to be formed under the limited liability act, which promises to have important bearings on the materials of literature, as well as likely to be successful as a commercial enterprise. It is called The Paper and Fibre Manufacture Company, for the production of paper from flax, hemp, jute, Indian grass, and other fibrous vegetable substances. A manufactory has been for some time at work at Burwell, in Cambridgeshire, and the excellence of the material turned out has been fully tested. The increasing scarcity of the ordinary materials for paper-making has been lately felt, the average value of the best rags during the last two years being 35*l.* a ton. The new material will not cost above 18*l.* 10*s.* a ton, being a difference of 16*l.* 10*s.* The estimated clear return of the capital of the company is at the rate of twenty-five per cent. from the raw material alone, besides the profits of paper-making. The patentee has agreed to sell his factory at Burwell, and other factories are to be established. The scheme looks well, and those who have read Dr. Royle's recent book on the fibrous plants of India, know that there is an abundance of vegetable products capable of being added to the substances already in use in paper manufacture.

The Surrey Archaeological Society will hold its annual meeting on the 12th June, at Croydon.

The Annual General Meeting of the Arundel Society is appointed to be held on Tuesday.





A Paris journal asserts that M. de Lamartine's long struggle to preserve his family mansion and estate from sale by auction by his creditors—a struggle which, of late years, has caused him incessant literary labour—has ended in failure, and that he, in consequence, a ruined and broken-hearted man, has resolved on emigrating to the United States of America. The same journal says, too, that the grant of land in Turkey, which was so generously made to him some years back by the Sultan, has been retracted under circumstances which subject him to heavy loss. And it asserts—what, however, we confess we have difficulty in believing—that so much has his political and literary popularity declined amongst his countrymen, that he can hardly find sufficient subscribers to his 'Entretiens,' recently started, to cover his expenses. We deeply lament to learn that so distinguished and so excellent a man is reduced to such sore straits.

The death of the privy councillor Charles John, in Naumburg, has given rise to much discussion about the private secretaries of Goethe. Herr John, who held this post, was at first asserted to have been the only one thus appointed; this was, however, not the fact. Goethe had such an unconquerable reluctance to the actual use of his pen, that rather than give himself this trouble, he would employ any one whom he could lay hands on to transcribe from his dictation, not only his literary works but even his private letters. There are two gentlemen still living in Weimar who acted in the capacity of secretary to the poet.

A new edition of the complete works of Schelling is now being published by Cotta, beginning with his lectures on mythology. The editorship is in able hands, and the work promises to be a valuable addition to German literature. Also a new edition of Kepler's entire works has been announced, and together with it appears an invitation to subscribe to a proposed monument to the astronomer, intended to be erected in Stuttgart, and for which the sculptor Braun has already sent in a model.

Herr Ahlquist, a Finlander, has just published a grammar of the Votish idioms, which will be a most acceptable work to the student of northern languages and customs. The Voten (Vatjalaiset) are a people of Finnish descent, possessing singular customs and language. The celebrated philologist Sjögren held their language to be a dialect of the Finnish; and with this Herr Ahlquist partly agrees, considering it, however, mingled with much of other northern dialects.

A vine-dresser of Albano, near Rome, is said to have found in a vineyard the celebrated ring of Polycrates. This treasure, the history of which is familiar to all readers of Schiller's ballads, was brought to Rome after the death of Polycrates, 522 before the birth of Christ; it was seen also by Pliny, and mentioned by him. The Emperor Augustus placed it in a golden case, and deposited it for safety in the Temple of Concord. The stone of the ring is of considerable size, and oblong in form. The engraving on it, by Theodore of Samos, the son of Talikles, is of extraordinary fineness and beauty. It represents a lyre with three birds flying about; below, on the right, a dolphin; on the left, the head of a bull. The name of the engraver is inscribed in Greek characters. The upper surface of the stone is slightly concave, not highly polished, and one corner broken. It is asserted that the possessor of this ring has been offered 50,000 dollars for it by an Englishman, but has declined it, expecting to make a more profitable bargain with the Emperor Alexander.

The magistrates of Munich have decreed that the graves of Sennefelder, the inventor of lithography, who died in 1834, and Gabelsberger, the inventor of stenography, who died in 1849, shall from henceforth be attended to, and kept with unusual care.

Professor Joseph Müller, one of the best Oriental scholars of the day, has been instructed by the King of Bavaria to repair to Spain, there to examine the Arabic MSS. in the Escorial library in Madrid. They consist of a collection made by Philip II., and which, in spite of the destruction

of many of them by fire in 1671, is considered the richest in the world. The Escorial catalogue by Kasiri enumerates many, the careful examination of which will doubtless throw new light on Arabic history. The study of them could not have been entrusted to worthier hands than Professor Müller, who, though he has published little yet, has given certain evidence that he possesses a complete mastery of the Eastern languages.

The mosaic floor from Coazzo, representing in the centre a basket of fruits, and in the corners the four winds, has been placed in the Vatican Museum.

A marble statue, of beautiful workmanship, and in perfect condition, has been dug up in making excavations for the foundations of a church in Atlantis, in Greece; it is life size, and represents a youth leaning on a column.

The University of Breslau has lost one of her greatest ornaments in the person of Dr. Julius Athanasius Ambrosch, professor of philology, and director of the Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Polish papers announce the death of Kajetan Kozmian, at Piotrowice, one of the most celebrated of their poets.

FINE ARTS.

FRENCH EXHIBITION.

THE interest that is felt in this collection continues undiminished. Some few additions have been made to it since the private view, and the general effect of the room is certainly better than in former years. The high art of France, it is true, is but slightly represented in the battle-pieces of Yvon and Beaume; and Ary Scheffer alone sustains the religious aspect of the French school; but of the rising and working talent of France, of the artists whose reputation is forming, and their style not fully matured, a very fair idea is presented to the spectator. Next after the great celebrities, Ary Scheffer and Delaroche, whose works, the *Three Maries* (281), and the *Napoleon Crossing the Alps* (110), are too well known to need comment, Mlle. Rosa Bonheur is next inquired after. This year she disappoints her admirers. The *Landscape, with Cattle* (45), though striking as to the good drawing of the animals, according to the type of cattle selected, and touched in the sharp fresh manner with which we are familiar, fails in other respects. It is unimportant in size, and the distance is vague and thoughtless—in short, it is behind the reputation of the artist. The *Auvergne Peasants* (46), though a sketch only, is vigorous and broad. It has not only a masterly air about it, but is well, though rapidly, painted, particularly in parts. The *Percheron Horse* (47) is also excellent, rather as a study than as a finished painting.

M. Biard is, perhaps, the next painter of general interest. The actual genius of this artist certainly exceeds his ability as a painter. His gaiety, ingenuity, sensibility, qualities which are rare in the English school, are not matched by harmonious colouring or clever handling. The scantiness of the artist's language is insufficient to render his vivacious thoughts with full effect, and so his pictures, though crowded with meaning, look hard, thin, and hurried. M. Biard has no time, evidently, to waste on technicalities. A great amount of thought and action is boldly and rapidly given in the *Shipwrecked Crew Rescued by Laplanders* (25). The colour is repulsive at first from its coldness, though perfectly appropriate to the dreariness of the scene, but a closer observation will show what a drama of life and feeling is being played out between those perishing sailors and their wild rescuers. In the foreground, the boats and fish-spears of the Laplanders are inserted, to tell us, as by a written scroll, the locality and its inhabitants.

English Travellers in France (27), and *French Travellers in England* (28), which are among the new arrivals, will amuse everybody. The idea to be carried out is a single one—the chattering importunities of French touts compared with the stolid indifference of British policemen. Amongst the noticeable traits of character,

the two French porters laboriously carrying one light bird-cage between them, on a long pole, is a good point; so is the swing and tramp of the file of policemen—a little exaggerated; so, also, is the affected resignation of the pert French waiting-maid, seated on her luggage. *The Barber's Shop* (29), equally humorous, has undoubtedly more beauties of execution than the other pictures.

M. Meissonier's single picture, *A Lover of the Weed* (237), is as marvellous an instance of his microscopic style of handling as any that have been exhibited. This style is not a mere trick, for the qualities which distinguish good art are carried out in this reduced scale with equal care and attention, as other artists would devote to paintings of the ordinary size. Good drawing, shadow, and colour are combined with the same art as in larger works. In subject, however, we find nothing of the demonstrative style of M. Biard. M. Meissonier is as reserved as the other is garrulous; he devotes his laborious skill upon the most ordinary subjects, just as with the former subject is first and execution only secondary; but then M. Meissonier invests the simplest figure—as this, of a man dressed in ruffles, sitting in a chair, smoking a pipe—with a sort of dignity that preserves the figure from absolute insignificance. No two artists present a greater contrast.

The *Battle of the Alma* (13), by Beaume, which was one of the features of the *Besaux Arts*, will be still better known by the engraving. To an unilitary eye the pictorial effect is scattered, and however carefully certain groups have been rendered, there is, in the artistic sense, no culminating point in the picture. The interest inspired by the scene is confined to a few particular details.

Marshal Ney supporting the Rear-Guard (324), on the other hand, by Yvon, is a grand specimen of concentrated energy and life. The scene speaks for itself, and a more favourable instance of the French battle style could not be adduced. It was distinguished, among others of the same class, at the Exposition.

Besides a portrait of *Charles Dickens* (282), not up to the mark of the Academy portrait by A. Scheffer, Henry Scheffer has a *Mater Dolorosa* (233), something in the style of the more celebrated artist; but firmer and bolder in style, with evidences of study less delicately and skilfully veiled under strong religious feeling.

The large landscape, *On the Banks of the Seine* (307), by Troyon, justly excites much admiration. The near parts are enveloped in that peculiar haze, which is an effect aimed at by the French artists, by way of a change, we presume, after their clear inland skies; and the distance is undefined and imaginative, all outline of the distant slopes and buildings being lost, and nothing remaining but gleams of light and flashes of colour. In fact, it is Turner-esque. But then, clever as it is, it falls very far short of Turner. Whether the observation of nature has been incomplete or inaccurate, or, what we rather suspect, the facility of handling has not been sufficient to follow these difficult aerial effects with truth, the picture never quite ceases to be painted. It suggests, but does not describe those remote objects; although, when seen at a certain distance, every stroke of the brush falls together admirably into a sort of conventional representation of them. In saying, however, that this fine picture is not up to the mark of our first landscape artists, it must be owned that there is not a single picture in the Royal Academy of this year which approaches it in excellence in its own peculiar line. M. Troyon's other works, excellent in parts, are very unevenly painted, much that is bad being mixed up with the good.

Another remarkable landscape is *The Hunt* (39), by Auguste Bonheur. Everything has been attempted here to give a delightful feeling to the scene, and the eye is flattered by every part of the picture. There is a warm glowing sun, pretty forest glades, picturesque trees, in every variety of shade, distance, and half light, and some hunting spaniels of glossy hues. The ferns and foliage are charmingly painted; there is only a little too much gold and glitter upon every object; it is not

genuine, good, rugged woodland, but a bit of romance forest, tinted and lighted up for the drawing-room. *Cattle Descending the Mountains* (38), attractive at first sight, is after all not correct as to the colour of the animals, and as to distance wholly illusory and deceptive.

M. Hamon has painted a picture which everybody calls "thoroughly French." No English artist would ever venture to hang such a picture as the scene called *I did not do it* (169). Whilst the lady enters the nursery, where upon the floor lies the broken plaster figure, two of the little culprits stand simpering behind the door, and the third is whipping the doll for the supposed offence. What most English persons say is, that what is not affected in this picture is offensive. The children's expressions, trying to look arch and sly, but succeeding only in being precociously intelligent, like the boy and girl cupids of the Louis Quatorze age; the lady dressed, for no intelligible reason, in Roman costume—these are as objectionable as the wretched doll figure is repulsive. Yet the affectation is probably thought very ingenious and piquant by a French spectator, and the attitudes rather humorous than otherwise. Else the artist could not have finished his work with so much attention and evident relish. All that can be said is, that such taste will never find acceptance here.

The cabinet pictures are, of course, the most important feature after all, and excellent as ever. Take M. Fichel. *A Card Party* (143) consists of three figures in the old costume. What character in the faces, what uniform excellence in the dresses, how finished, accomplished, polite, is the whole scene! These groups that represent the education and manners of old France, will even illustrate history. The young lady sits by her father's side, opposite the young man, and the animated and cultivated expression of the features of each is quite dramatic. *The Model* (144) shows a taste for a certain tone of warm colour in flesh which is particularly rare in the exhibition, and is not often found with a small and exact style of handling. *The Workman's Meal* (145) is simple and natural in a totally different sphere of life. The variety of the artist's powers of description is not the least of his merits.

M. Plassan is unrivalled for the crisp beauty of his works, which resemble enamels in porcelain in the character of their handling. *The Young Girl selecting Fruit* (263), and *The Toilet* (264), occupy conspicuous places in the gallery, which their refined beauty well deserves.

The figures of M. Loui are larger, and by no means so highly finished. But they have character in them which speaks for itself, and an air of completeness which is a merit. *The Flower Girl in Paris* (229), and the *Oyster Woman in Paris* (230), are not only good figures, but they contain a great deal of expression.

M. Patrois particularly excels in the faces of children. *The Little Student* (261) and *The Tired Student* (262), are admirable for that earnest and abstracted look, which is so charming at that age, and perfectly unconstrained and unconscious of observation. In this one merit nothing in the rooms approaches M. Patrois.

M. Edouard P. Frère stands very high among the painters of this class of subject. The group of the young woman and four children, called *The Evening Meal* (150), is wonderfully clever in the natural air of all the actors concerned. *The Young Artist* (153) is a charming face; and a figure to which the strange name of *Cold Morning* (154) has been given, representing a woman kneeling apparently in a chapel, has the light and shade, even the sort of outline, of Rembrandt about it, though not so violently contrasted in the dark and bright parts. *Return from Market* (155) is another study of light and shade suggestive of the Dutch school of Ostade and others.

Four excellent studies by M. Duverger should also be noticed here, and two by M. Chavet.

M. Breton has a remarkable painting of *Corn Stacks burning at Mid-day* (58). Everything looks extremely hot; the groups of peasants are managed with wonderful skill, grouped naturally, very

numerous, and not crowded; but perhaps the spectator is too near the flames to enjoy them. The picture is very clever and very uncomfortable.

M. Devedeux's figure scenes are skilfully painted, with strong appeals to sensual attractions. Round, fleshy forms, with white and pink colour, and voluptuous eyes, robed in dresses of deep dye, with rich ornaments—these are the materials, which yet wrought up with taste and delicacy. *Harmony* (112) is a group in a style somewhere between Etty and Frost; *The Turkish Mother* (113) is of the same class. On the other hand, there are two quaint and highly-coloured Chinese scenes, the *Guardsman* (115) and the *Rendezvous* (116), which are original in idea, and ornamental to richness in execution.

The style naturally leads us to M. Beaulieu, who is, however, by no means so accurate in drawing, nor refined in finish, but the colour is of the finest in the room.

M. Theodore C. Frère paints *A Street in Constantinople* (156) in a very original and masterly way. The effect of these dark Saracenic arches, and bold roof line, distinguished the picture in the collection at Paris; and the scene is well suited for a gallery, to be hung at a distance.

A Burial in the Vosges (62), by M. Brion, is among the works of character and costume which are of high class. The grief of the mourners, their poverty, the drifting snow, the common feeling of sympathy, the strangely-shaped and painted coffin mounted on the sledge, and the life and originality of the whole scene, make this a work well worthy of study.

M. Poussin's *Brittany Peasants* (268), notwithstanding the flatness of colour, is an extraordinary piece of composition, when the number of figures, and the variety of their costumes, attitudes, and occupations are considered.

M. Hoguet's scenes of white, misty, silvery light should not be omitted; the *Coast Scene* (180) is very charming, though it represents a rare, if a possible, effect of nature; *The Boat Carpenter* (182) partakes of the same mannerism of style.

A Coast Scene (176), by Hildebrandt, is a vigorous drawing; but air and distance are not wholly successful. *The Warning* (2), by Accard, gives the expression of the girl admirably, and *The Gleaner* (4), by Antigna, is prettily painted. *A Scene from Boccaccio* (14), by De Beaumont, is rather uneven, but good in character, and, as to the centre figure, excellent in painting. M. Tournemine's brilliant clear landscapes, a fine *Interior, with Rabbits* (275), by Rosseau, a *View of Amsterdam*, in the style of Vanderheyden, with more atmosphere and less fulness of pencil, by Onoré, a painting by Hillemacher, representing *Rubens taking his Wife's Portrait*, and *The Empty Cradle*, are among the most striking of the remaining works, some of which are late arrivals. In several important instances the gallery appears to be in a state of fluctuation, and is yet far from being complete.

Amongst the changes which our improved taste in architectural matters are bringing about, may be noticed the proposals which have been made for some time past for improving the university church of St. Mary at Cambridge. The recent improvements in the market-place at Cambridge have suggested these alterations. A syndicate has been appointed by the University to confer with the town and college authorities as to the adoption of a scheme of which the following are the leading features:—1. The removal of the gallery called the Throne, and the placing of stalls in the chancel for those who at present occupy the same, being principally the Vice-Chancellor and the Heads of Houses. 2. The removal of the existing pulpit, and erection of a new one on the south side of the chancel; and 3. The clearing of the space under the west gallery, the removal of the pews, and a total re-pewning of the whole church. By the proposed arrangements, which have been drawn up by an architect, the University will gain 250 sittings,

and the estimated cost is 3000*l.* Of this sum a considerable portion has, we believe, been promised; but as the powers of the syndicate expire very shortly, a committee of fifty influential resident members of the University, who are promoting the scheme, are anxious to have the whole of this amount subscribed, before they can communicate to the Senate the plan they would recommend for adoption. The whole subject well deserves the attention of all influential members of the University.

One of the finest collections of engravings that has been offered for sale for some years past is advertised at Messrs. Sotheby and Wilkinson's. The sale is arranged in two divisions, the former consisting of general ancient and modern engravings; the latter of the works of Hollar and Faithorne exclusively. The former list embraces the following rare specimens:—A proof of the *Transfiguration*, after Raffaello, by Raphael Morghen, in the earliest state, with the white book and the large margin, in the finest condition, from the Verstolk collection; Müller's *Madonna di San Sisto*, a proof in fine condition; *The Aurora*, by Raphael Morghen, after Guido, a fine print before letters; a considerable number of Rembrandts, including the *Hundred Guilder Print*, the *Large Descent from the Cross*, the *Three Trees*, the *Little La Tombe*, and many others, selected with great judgment and taste; a few by Rainondi, as *The Five Saints*, *The Virgin Weeping over the Dead Christ*, *The Parnassus*, from the Maberly and other collections; one of the first *Bolton Abbey* prints, before letters; a fine selection of Woollets, with the *Fishery*, a proof on India paper before letters; and a great variety of general prints from every class of ancient and modern art, from A. Dürer to Doo, to the number of three hundred and upwards. The Hollar prints amount to 244, and those of Faithorne to about seventy.

The formation of an extensive exhibition of portraits of Scottish Worthies has been for some years contemplated in Edinburgh; and the Scottish Academy has at length determined to carry out the project, which must prove scarcely less interesting in an artistic than an historical point of view. The Academy has acted wisely in recognising how valuable may be the influence of such a display as a stimulus to a higher feeling for historical art, and as auxiliary in an important degree to the encouragement of art in Scotland. Her Majesty has graciously given special patronage to the undertaking, and sanctioned the transmission to Edinburgh of the remarkable paintings at Hampton Court, the portraits of James III. and his queen, attributed to Mabuse, and painted for the royal chapel at Stirling. From the royal collections will also be sent to the exhibition the curious work of art known as the Darnley Picture, a memorial of the tragical death of Henry Darnley. Another painting of a similar subject exists at Goodwood, and it may be hoped that the Duke of Richmond will consent to permit its exhibition with that from the royal collection. The project of the Academy has been entertained with cordial satisfaction by many of the nobility and distinguished owners of historical portraits in Scotland, where a large number of fine examples of art of that class exist, and the Scottish Academy will experience no difficulty in filling the spacious halls in the new buildings adjoining the National Gallery at Edinburgh, the proposed place for this highly interesting exhibition. It is hoped that it may be opened early in July. In various parts of the Continent important collections of portraits have been formed, but in our country no undertaking of a similar kind had hitherto been carried into effect. The Scottish Academy have very happily chosen a moment when public interest has been excited through the recent movement originated by Earl Stanhope. Numerous Scottish portraits exist, doubtless, in various places in England, which would be of essential value for the extension of the historical series contemplated by the Academy in Edinburgh. With the present facilities for safe transmission of works of art, it may be hoped that many of

these portraits may find their place in the projected Valhalla at Edinburgh.

King Louis of Bavaria, desirous of seeing the Glyptothek in Munich complete, has given directions that the numerous niches on the outside walls, which have hitherto been empty, shall be filled with statues, to be designed and executed by Munich artists.

Professor Rauch, the venerable Prussian sculptor, has just received orders from the King to execute another colossal equestrian statue of Frederick the Great, but of somewhat smaller dimensions than that which he last modelled; its destination is not yet known. It is pleasant to think that an artist considerably upwards of eighty years of age has had the courage to undertake such a work: may he live to see it completed! The same artist has just finished a statue in plaster, nine feet high, of the philosopher Kant; the model is to be forwarded immediately to the foundry, and the statue to be erected, as a memorial to Kant, in the town of Königsberg. Out of the 10,000 dollars necessary to defray the expenses, 6000 have been already paid, and the remaining balance promised. A statue is to be placed in Museum-square, in Antwerp, in honour of Van Dyk; and from Lisbon we learn that the Portuguese, hitherto rather slow to acknowledge by testimonials the merits of their great men, have determined to erect monuments to Vasco di Gama, the discoverer of the sea passage to India, to the poet Camoens, and to Cabral, the discoverer of the Brazils.

The ceremony of laying the first stone of the Votive Church at Vienna was performed, before an immense concourse of people in that city, on the 24th of April. The Emperor, accompanied by almost all the members of the imperial family and dignitaries of the state, civil, military, and ecclesiastic, was present. This church is to be erected in gratitude for the Emperor's escape from assassination a few years ago, and the expense of building to be defrayed by voluntary contributions from his people. Subscriptions have already flowed in to the amount of upwards of a million and a half of florins. As a work of art this church will be a great ornament to Vienna. It is to be in the gothic style, with two towers; to have two altars, besides the high altar, and two oratories in the choir. It is to be capable of holding from four to five thousand people, and to be finished in from twelve to fourteen years.

The Paris papers announce the death of M. Ducornet, an historical painter of real talent, and author of several highly esteemed works—one of which has the honour of figuring in a prominent position at the Louvre. The success of this gentleman in his difficult art is truly extraordinary, for he was born without hands and arms, and painted with his toes. A portrait of this artist in his studio was published some years since in M. Alexandre Vattemare's 'Album Cosmopolite.'

Plans for the granaries and docks in the Danish harbours have just been completed by a Mr. Sang, an English architect, and laid before the Emperor of Austria in a private audience, and have met with the fullest approbation. There is little doubt but that they will be carried out.

Gustav König has just completed four very beautiful engravings, taken from 1st, 22nd, and 110th Psalms. Herr König is already celebrated in Germany as a clever and successful illustrator of biblical subjects; the engravings which have just appeared are as remarkable for their religious and poetic conception as for the fineness and delicacy of their execution.

From Rome we learn that the 'Loggia' of the Vatican, which contains the beautiful arabesques and other frescoes of Raphael, are no longer exposed to the influences of the open air; large windows in iron frames have been inserted on the side open to the court, effectually shielding the pictures from the rain. This is better late than never; the frescoes have, however, received irreparable damage.

The colossal statue of Goethe, which now stands in a building in the Park at Weimar, is to be removed and placed in the square before the theatre of that city.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

THE appearance of Madame Alboni in *La Sonnambula* was the event of the week at Her Majesty's Theatre. The occasion was one of peculiar interest, and seldom has greater curiosity been exhibited than to witness the *début* of this great singer as *Amina*. The result was most triumphant. Her wonderful powers rose with the demands of the scene, and she seemed to acquire accumulated force as the opera advanced. Throughout the first and second acts her vocalization was exquisitely pure, melodious, and sweet; but it was in the third act, where the drama makes the heaviest demands upon the resources of the performer, that she achieved an effect which literally threw the house into a ferment of enthusiasm. The finale, transposed a third lower, was executed with surpassing brilliancy, and with an originality and richness of embellishment which a voice of such compass alone, directed by the purest taste, could have produced. Nor was it by these lyrical marvels only that Madame Alboni fascinated her audience. As a piece of dramatic impersonation her *Amina* is admirable. All the fluctuations of the story, from the cheerfulness of the opening, and the deep sorrow which supervenes upon it, to the final outburst of recovered happiness, were portrayed with care and truthfulness. The cast was in other respects excellent. Signor Beneventano was highly successful in *Count Rudolpho*, and the *Elvino* of Calzolari left nothing to be desired. It would be unjust to a performance of considerable merit not to add, that in the small part of *Lisa*, Mlle. Rizzi made a decided impression, and was encored in one of her songs. A new *divertissement* has been produced, of which we shall have a word to say next week. Mlle. Piccolomini appears to-night in Verdi's opera, *La Traviata*.

At the Royal Italian Opera, Verdi's *Rigoletto* was produced on Thursday evening, with a cast of unusual excellence—the *Duke*, Mario; *Rigoletto*, Ronconi; *Sparafucilli*, Tagliafico; the *Count*, Polonini; *Gilda*, Bosio; *Madalena*, Nantier Didée. All the singers were in their best strain, and the opera has rarely been performed with greater effect.

Madame Puzzi's concert, at Willis's Rooms, on Monday, was one of the brilliant gatherings of the musical season, Viardot Garcia, Clara Novello, and the company of Her Majesty's Theatre appearing. On the evening of the same day a concert of a more popular caste attracted a crowded audience at Exeter Hall, for the benefit of Mr. F. Bodda. On Friday last the performance of the *Messiah*, at Exeter Hall, took place for the benefit of the Royal Society of Musicians. This week has been rich in concerts of a high class. On Wednesday Jenny Lind appeared at Mr. Benedict's annual concert, which used to be given at Covent Garden, but this year at Exeter Hall. Mr. C. Halle, Mr. Julio Regondi, Mr. Blagrove, and other performers, have had concerts during the week, but nothing important of novelty has occurred to note on these occasions.

At Drury Lane, Rossini's *Cenerentola*, with an English libretto, is given in very fair style, Miss F. Huddart, Miss Dyer, Messrs. Henry Haigh, Manvers, Durand, and Halford, being the chief performers. Mrs. Florence, the clever American actress, appears to great advantage in a piece entitled *Mischiefous Annie*, in which she sustains a variety of characters. A smarter hornpipe has rarely been danced on any boards, and her imitation of the Spanish dancing is also good.

On Wednesday Madame Ristori, with her Italian company, is announced to appear at the Lyceum. A lease of that house is to commence after the opera season, for drama, with Mr. Dillon as chief performer.

At Sadler's Wells, a short series of operatic performances, by an English company, led by Mr. Howard Glover, has been given this week, commencing, on Monday evening, with the *Bohemian Girl*, Mr. Balfie himself conducting. Mr. and Mrs. Sims Reeves, Miss Poole, and Mr. Weiss, were among the principal performers. Some new

music was introduced by the composer, who had an enthusiastic reception on this his first public appearance for some years. There is better prospect for English opera now than when Mr. Balfie last left this country, and if he could produce a work equal to those that have gained his reputation, we have little doubt of its success.

A new farce, slight in construction, but successful from the cleverness of the acting, has been produced at the Adelphi, under the title of *A Bottle of Smoke*, a free rendering of *Il n'y a pas de fumée sans feu*. Mr. Cambriacan (Wright), a wealthy silk mercer, on the point of marrying a pretty flower girl, Lucy Merton (Miss Wyndham), has his quick suspicions aroused by the smell of a cigar, as he supposed, in her room. The results of his jealousy are ludicrously exhibited by Mr. Wright, and Lucy's spirit is admirably expressed in Miss Wyndham's indignant words and conduct. All is made straight, however, by the discovery that Lucy has only been fumigating an invalid fuchsia with tobacco smoke, according to a prescription in the 'Gardener's Chronicle.' In the French piece from which it is adapted, the lady smokes for pleasure, and her attempts to conceal it constitute the fun of the farce.

A grand Fancy Dress Ball is to be given on Friday, the 6th June, at the Hanover-square Rooms, for the benefit of the Funds of the Royal Academy of Music, which, it is expected, will be honoured with the presence of the Queen and several other members of the Royal Family. No gentleman will be admitted except in uniform, court, or fancy dress, and quadrilles of the most picturesque costumes are being arranged.

A 500/- renter's share in Drury-lane Theatre, entitling the holder to a transferable free admission, and to a rent 1s. 3d. per night of performance, was sold at Garraway's this week for 45/-.

M. Alexander Corti, who a short time ago was manager of the Italian Opera in Paris, has lately died at Milan.

LEARNED SOCIETIES.

GEOLOGICAL.—March 19th.—D. Sharpe, Esq., President, in the chair. Capt. W. S. Sherwill, the Rev. H. H. Wood, and D. T. Evans, Esq., were elected Fellows. The following communications were read:—1. 'On some Organic Remains from the Bone Bed at the base of the Lias at Lyme Regis,' by the Rev. Mr. Dennis. Communicated by Sir C. Lyell. In this communication the author drew attention to some peculiar bones and teeth from the Bone-bed which occurs between the Trias and the Lias. Mr. Dennis considered that some of these fossils presented mammalian structure under the microscope. Among the specimens from the Lyme Regis bone-bed, Professor Owen determined the remains of *Lepidotus* and *Saurichthys*, and of another fish, *Placodus*, which had not previously been recognised among British fossils. 2. 'On the Valenciennes Coal-basin,' by M. Laurent. In a letter to A. Tylor, Esq. This communication referred to the works in the coal-basin of the departments of the Nord and the Pas de Calais, on the prolongation of the Belgian basin of Mons. At the end of the last century, France in the north possessed only the mines of Auzin, which were first worked in 1716. This state of things lasted until 1832, when the workings only extended to Denain. In 1839, the concessions of Douchy, Bruelle, Vieogne, Auiche, Agincourt, and Thioncelles were made. The works of research went on until 1841, at which period the adventurers, discouraged by the numerous fruitless attempts made in the supposed direction of the basin towards Arras, abandoned them. Six years later, the works undertaken towards the north-west of Douai, in the direction of the present concessions of the Pas de Calais, indicated the true direction of the coal-basin; and down to 1854, numerous trial-sinkings, of which many passed through the coal, led to the establishment of nine new concessions; and a tenth, on the border of the basin, is in progress. Two more also have been made this year (1855), one to the north of Douai, the other to the north of Bethune, above

Choques, where they suppose that the bands of dry coal (*faisceau maigre*) end, the basin beyond this place becoming narrower, and representing only the seams of caking coal in all the concessions to the west. Many works have, moreover, been undertaken in the course of the last three years, in search of a widening of the basin by the series of the seams of caking coal, and of an extension of the dry-coal band, which disappears at Choques. With the exception of those made by the Vendin Company, these sinkings have as yet given only negative results. In all the sinkings which have been made from Valenciennes to the furthest of these researches, the chalk forms the (*mort terrain*) head, and with a varying thickness. As far as Aire the chalk alone forms the rock which has to be passed through before reaching the coal, from which it is separated by a bed of green sand from 1 to 3 metres in thickness, known by the name of 'tourteau.' On the north of Aire it is, in addition, covered up by tertiary deposits, alternations of sands and clays, with a thickness in places of 100 to 150 metres, and which render it necessary to line the sinkings as the work advances. This formation is found even in Belgium, at St. Ghislain, near Mons, with a thickness of 60 metres. The average thickness of the overlying beds is 140 metres. It seldom exceeds 180 metres, and was found to be only 85 metres at Marles, near Bethune. It is near this town that the depth to the base of the chalk is the greatest; the sinkings which have been conducted on the south gave a result at a smaller depth. Nearly 2,000,000 francs have been expended by various companies, all formed of private persons; and in more than 150 sinkings numerous workings have resulted, which have increased beyond all expression the wealth of these two departments, have developed a portion of the coal-field of France, and enriched on a grand scale the fortunate adventurers. The small basin of Fiemmes and Hardingham, near Guisnes, is independent of this large one; it is a coal deposit in the mountain limestone, and which has been worked for some time past for local consumption; the coal is found at a slight depth, but the quantity of water renders the workings both difficult and expensive. Similar works are being carried on in the department of the Moselle, where they are tracing the prolongation of the Sarrebruck basin beneath the New Red Sandstone. Eight companies have already met with the coal between 200 and 300 metres in depth, and are applying for concessions. It is in this quarter and in the department Nord that the principal search is now being made. This letter was accompanied by an outline map of the district referred to, on which were shown the extent of the several concessions, the position and character of the most important of the borings, and approximately the length and breadth of the Valenciennes coal-basin as indicated by the workings hitherto effected. 3. 'On the Sandstones and Breccias of the South of Scotland of an Age subsequent to the Carboniferous Formation,' by Professor Harkness. The author first referred to a former paper, in which he had described in detail some of these sandstones and breccias, especially those of the neighbourhood of Dumfries. He then gave his reasons for regarding the sandstones of Annan, in the south-east of Dumfriesshire, to be continuous with, and of the same age as, those of Carlisle—viz. of the Triassic age, and pointed out several patches of sandstone and breccia in other parts of Dumfriesshire, and in Ayrshire, which lie either on the Carboniferous or the Lower Silurian rocks of the district, and are probably referable to the Permian epoch. These sandstones and breccias appear to have been deposited subsequently to the eruption of the trap-dykes that have dislocated the coal-fields of central Scotland, and to have been always derived from the neighbouring older rocks. The author divides them into four distinct groups—viz. 1st (the lowest), breccias and sandstones, best seen in the course of the Kinnel Water and at Ballochmyle in Ayrshire; 2ndly, sandstones, for the most part false-bedded, well seen in the Corock Muir area, the Thornhill district, at Mauchline, and in the vicinity of Dumfries; 3rdly, hard thick breccias,

best seen at the Craigs, Dumfries; and 4thly, thin-bedded sandstone, only slightly developed, occurring at Castledikes, Dumfries, above the breccia. Animal life abounded, in the form of reptiles, during the period of the deposition of these Permian beds, as evidenced by the numerous impressions of foot-tracks of Cheloniens, Lizards, and Batrachians, which walked over the shores of the Permian waters, when the sandstones of Corock Muir and Dumfries were sandy beaches with mud-patches scattered over them. Mr. Harkness regards the several patches or areas of the rocks in question as having once been connected in a mass of great superficial extent; and he thinks it probable that the denudation which is supposed to have removed the greater portion took place in the Pleistocene epoch, the preservation of the isolated patches being due to local subsidence.

LINNEAN.—April 15th.—Thomas Bell, Esq., President, in the chair. Frederick Currey, Esq., M.A., was elected a Fellow. Among the presents on the table was a set of 50 beautifully-executed folio plates, illustrating the general characteristics of Brazilian vegetation, presented by Dr. Von Martius, Foreign Member of the Society. Read:—1. An Extract of a Letter from Mr. R. Spruce, addressed to Mr. Bentham, giving some account of the neighbourhood of Tarapota, in Peru, from whence the letter is dated, and of its vegetation. 2. A Note on *Obolaria virginica*, L., by Asa Gray, M.D. 3. A Note on the Chinese Insect-wax, by Mr. Daniel Hanbury, accompanied by specimens of the wax, the insect, and the plant on which it is found. 4. Notice of a species of *Coccus*, producing wax, and of the wax obtained from it, by J. C. Westwood, Esq., F.L.S. 5. The commencement of a Memoir 'On several Instances of the Anomalous Development of the Raphe in Seeds, and the probable Causes of such deviations from the usual course of structure, especially in reference to the *Urantha* of Thwaites, with some prefatory remarks on that genus,' by Mr. John Miers.

GEOPHICAL.—May 12th.—Rear-Admiral F. W. Beechey, President, in the chair. Lieutenant M. F. Maury, of the United States Navy, and Commodore Irminger, of the Royal Danish Navy, were elected Corresponding Fellows; and Mr. Charles Churchill, Dr. Robert Ferguson, Mr. Jas. Hewitt, and Rear-Admiral Rich, were elected Ordinary Fellows of the Society. The discussion on Mr. Kelley's paper, 'On the connexion between the Atlantic and Pacific *via* the Atrato and Truando Rivers,' which was adjourned from the last meeting, was opened by the President, who called upon the Secretary to read a letter addressed to Mr. Kelley by Baron Humboldt, expressing his strong conviction of the possibility, as well as the desirability, of executing this important work.

ENTOMOLOGICAL.—May 5th.—W. W. Saunders, Esq., President, in the chair. Mr. Janson exhibited three specimens of *Hetaerius quadratus*, a beetle hitherto unrecorded as British, found by him in ants' nests at Hampstead. Mr. Stevens exhibited a fine male specimen of *Petasius subcuculus* recently taken in Perthshire, and a beautiful specimen of *Aleuicus pictaria* from Dartford Heath; also the sexes of a *Pausus*, sent from Natal by Mr. Plant, which were interesting from the sexes of these insects not having been previously discriminated. Captain Cox exhibited a specimen of *Acherontia Atropos* found in the hospital at Scutari; also some beautiful drawings of the larvae of Lepidoptera, by Mrs. Cox. Mr. Bond exhibited the case-bearing larvae of *Coleophora Wockella*, found on *Betonica officinalis*, in a wood near Canterbury. Mr. Scott sent for exhibition *Elachista Tanitella*, a species new to Britain, bred from larvae found last autumn on *Brachypodium sylvaticum*. Mr. Curtis communicated some notes on the economy of *Gonepteryx Rhamni*, by Dr. Maclean, of Colchester. Mr. Douglas read a translation of a paper in 'Guerin's Revue et Magasin de Zoologie' for December last, on *Epuraea Lenigera*; the silk produced by this

spider, it is considered, might be employed for many purposes for which the produce of the silkworm is at present too expensive. Mr. Smith read some observations on the species of the genus *Stylops*.

BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL.—May 14th.—S. R. Solly, F.R.S., Vice-President, in the chair. Edward Dixon, Esq., of Wilton House, Southampton, and G. M. Hughes, Esq., of St. Swithin's Lane, were elected Associates. Mr. Gunston exhibited a Chalcis of Mamertina, in Sicily, found in the Holloway-road. This is not the only instance of the asserted discovery of Greek coins in London, and must be regarded with suspicion. Mr. Gibbe laid before the meeting a beautiful medal struck in commemoration of Queen Anne's grant of the First Fruits and Tents to augment the incomes of the Poor Clergy. It was struck in 1704. Captain Tupper exhibited a bronze javelin head and a pot-formed celt, found in England; also two flint arrow-heads and two stone axes, found at Belfast. Mr. Pettigrew read notes on the seal of an extinct abbey at Louth Park, Lincolnshire, with some particulars relating to its foundation. Mr. Syer Cumming read a supplementary paper on Relics of Charles I., and exhibited a fine specimen of point lace mitten said to have been worn by the monarch when baptized. He described the armour presented to him, when created Prince of Wales, by the Armourers' Company, now in the Tower. It was the suit laid on the coffin of the Duke of Marlborough when his interment took place in Westminster Abbey. A variety of relics were described and some exhibited, among the latter several specimens of ornaments having portions of the hair of the king. Mr. Thompson exhibited a fine miniature of the Queen Henrietta Maria on copper, attributed to Vandyke. Mr. Jobbins read a very amusing and interesting paper on the 'History of Spoons,' tracing this useful domestic implement from its earliest time among the Egyptians to the present time. He illustrated his paper by various fine specimens, among which was a set of ten apostle spoons, silver gilt, and drawings of the varied forms observed in different countries and at different periods.

SOCIETY OF ARTS.—May 21st.—T. F. Gibson, Esq., F.G.S., in the chair. The following members were elected,—Captain Thomas Miller, R.N., Col. George Twemlow, and Messrs. R. Bentley and A. Tylor. The paper read was 'The British Silk Manufacture considered in its Commercial Aspects,' by Mr. T. Winkworth.

NUMISMATIC.—April 24th.—W. S. W. Vaux, Esq., President, in the chair. Dr. Löwe read a paper 'On Jewish coins, chiefly of Simon Macabaeus.'

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

Monday—Geographical, 1 p.m.—(Anniversary.) Architectural Museum, 7 p.m.—(On the Varieties of Stone used for Architectural Carving.)
Tuesday—Civil Engineers, 9 p.m.—(Conversations.) Annual Show.—(Annual Meeting.) Medical and Chirurgical, 8 p.m. Zoological, 9 p.m. Royal Institution, 3 p.m.—(T. A. Malone, Esq., on Photography.)
Wednesday—Botanic, 2 p.m.—(Ex.) Ethnological, 8 p.m.—(Anniversary.) Microscopical, 8 p.m. R. S. Literature, 8 p.m. Geological, 8 p.m.—Postponed from Wednesday last.—(1. On the Silurian Rocks of Wigtownshire. By J. C. Moore, Esq., F.G.S. 2. On the Influence of the Ocean Currents on the Formation of Strata. By C. Babbage, Esq. Communicated by Dr. Fitton, F.G.S.) British Archæological, 8 p.m.—(Mr. Pettigrew on the Antiquities of Cumae. Mr. Syer Cumming on Offerton Bells, and on the Santa Casa and Our Lady of Loreto. The History and Progress of Steel in the Machine-wrought Late Trade.) Thursday—Numismatic, 7 p.m. Antiquaries, 8 p.m. Royal Institution, 3 p.m.—(Prof. Tyndall on Light.) Friday—Botanic, 3 p.m.—(Lecture.) Royal Institution, 8 p.m.—(Dr. Lyon Playfair on the Chemical Principles involved in Agricultural Experiments.) Saturday—Botanic, 4 p.m. Medical, 8 p.m. Royal Institution, 3 p.m.—(Dr. A. W. Hofmann on the Non-Metallic Elements, their Manufacture and Application.)

genuine, good, rugged woodland, but a bit of romance forest, tinted and lighted up for the drawing-room. *Cattle Descending the Mountains* (38), attractive at first sight, is after all not correct as to the colour of the animals, and as to distance wholly illusory and deceptive.

M. Hamon has painted a picture which everybody calls "thoroughly French." No English artist would ever venture to hang such a picture as the scene called *I did not do it* (169). Whilst the lady enters the nursery, where upon the floor lies the broken plaster figure, two of the little culprits stand simpering behind the door, and the third is whipping the doll for the supposed offence. What most English persons say is, that what is not affected in this picture is offensive. The children's expressions, trying to look arch and sly, but succeeding only in being precociously intelligent, like the boy and girl cupids of the Louis Quatorze age; the lady dressed, for no intelligible reason, in Roman costume—these are as objectionable as the wretched doll figure is repulsive. Yet the affectation is probably thought very ingenious and piquant by a French spectator, and the attitudes rather humorous than otherwise. Else the artist could not have finished his work with so much attention and evident relish. All that can be said is, that such taste will never find acceptance here.

The cabinet pictures are, of course, the most important feature after all, and excellent as ever. Take M. Fichel. *A Card Party* (143) consists of three figures in the old costume. What character in the faces, what uniform excellence in the dresses, how finished, accomplished, polite, is the whole scene! These groups that represent the education and manners of old France, will even illustrate history. The young lady sits by her father's side, opposite the young man, and the animated and cultivated expression of the features of each is quite dramatic. *The Model* (144) shows a taste for a certain tone of warm colour in flesh which is particularly rare in the exhibition, and is not often found with a small and exact style of handling. *The Workman's Meal* (145) is simple and natural in a totally different sphere of life. The variety of the artist's powers of description is not the least of his merits.

M. Plassan is unrivalled for the crisp beauty of his works, which resemble enamels in porcelain in the character of their handling. *The Young Girl selecting Fruit* (263), and *The Toilet* (264), occupy conspicuous places in the gallery, which their refined beauty well deserves.

The figures of M. Loui are larger, and by no means so highly finished. But they have character in them which speaks for itself, and an air of completeness which is a merit. *The Flower Girl in Paris* (229), and *The Oyster Woman in Paris* (230), are not only good figures, but they contain a great deal of expression.

M. Patrois particularly excels in the faces of children. *The Little Student* (261) and *The Tired Student* (262), are admirable for that earnest and abstracted look, which is so charming at that age, and perfectly unconstrained and unconscious of observation. In this one merit nothing in the rooms approaches M. Patrois.

M. Edouard P. Frère stands very high among the painters of this class of subject. The group of the young woman and four children, called *The Evening Meal* (150), is wonderfully clever in the natural air of all the actors concerned. *The Young Artist* (153) is a charming face; and a figure to which the strange name of *Cold Morning* (154) has been given, representing a woman kneeling apparently in a chapel, has the light and shade, even the sort of outline, of Rembrandt about it, though not so violently contrasted in the dark and bright parts. *Return from Market* (155) is another study of light and shade suggestive of the Dutch school of Ostade and others.

Four excellent studies by M. Duverger should also be noticed here, and two by M. Chavet.

M. Breton has a remarkable painting of *Corn Stacks burning at Mid-day* (58). Everything looks extremely hot; the groups of peasants are managed with wonderful skill, grouped naturally, very

numerous, and not crowded; but perhaps the spectator is too near the flames to enjoy them. The picture is very clever and very uncomfortable.

M. Devèdeux's figure scenes are skilfully painted, with strong appeals to sensual attractions. Round, fleshy forms, with white and pink colour, and voluptuous eyes, robed in dresses of deep dye, with rich ornaments—these are the materials, which are yet wrought up with taste and delicacy. *Harmony* (112) is a group in a style somewhere between Eddy and Frost; *The Turkish Mother* (113) is of the same class. On the other hand, there are two quaint and highly-coloured Chinese scenes, the *Guardians* (115) and the *Rendezvous* (116), which are original in idea, and ornamental to richness in execution.

The style naturally leads us to M. Beaulieu, who is, however, by no means so accurate in drawing, nor refined in finish, but the colour is of the finest in the room.

M. Theodore C. Frère paints *A Street in Constantinople* (156) in a very original and masterly way. The effect of these dark Saracenic arches, and bold roof line, distinguishing the picture in the collection at Paris; and the scene is well suited for a gallery, to be hung at a distance.

A Burial in the Vosges (62), by M. Brion, is among the works of character and costume which are of high class. The grief of the mourners, their poverty, the drifting snow, the common feeling of sympathy, the strangely-shaped and painted coffin mounted on the sledge, and the life and originality of the whole scene, make this a work well worthy of study.

M. Poussin's *Brittany Peasants* (268), notwithstanding the flatness of colour, is an extraordinary piece of composition, when the number of figures, and the variety of their costumes, attitudes, and occupations are considered.

M. Huguet's scenes of white, misty, silvery light should not be omitted; the *Coast Scene* (180) is very charming, though it represents a rare, if a possible, effect of nature; *The Boat Carpenter* (182) partakes of the same mannerism of style.

A Coast Scene (176), by Hildebrandt, is a vigorous drawing; but air and distance are not wholly successful. *The Warning* (2), by Accard, gives the expression of the girl admirably, and *The Gleaner* (4), by Antigna, is prettily painted. A *Scene from Boccaccio* (14), by De Beaumont, is rather uneven, but good in character, and, as to the centre figure, excellent in painting. M. Tourneur's brilliant clear landscapes, a fine *Interior, with Rabbit* (275), by Rousseau, a *View of Amsterdam*, in the style of Vanderheyden, with more atmosphere and less fulness of pencil, by Onoré, a painting by Hillemaer representing *Rubens taking his Wife's Portrait*, and *The Empty Cradle*, are among the most striking of the remaining works, some of which are late arrivals. In several important instances the gallery appears to be in a state of fluctuation, and is yet far from being complete.

Amongst the changes which our improved taste in architectural matters are bringing about, may be noticed the proposals which have been made for some time past for improving the university church of St. Mary at Cambridge. The recent improvements in the market-place at Cambridge have suggested these alterations. A syndicate has been appointed by the University to confer with the town and college authorities as to the adoption of a scheme of which the following are the leading features:—1. The removal of the gallery called the Throne, and the placing of stalls in the chancel for those who at present occupy the same, being principally the Vice-Chancellor and the Heads of Houses. 2. The removal of the existing pulpit, and erection of a new one on the south side of the chancel; and 3. The clearing of the space under the west gallery, the removal of the pews, and a total re-pewning of the whole church. By the proposed arrangements, which have been drawn up by an architect, the University will gain 250 sittings,

and the estimated cost is 3000L. Of this sum a considerable portion has, we believe, been promised; but as the powers of the syndicate expire very shortly, a committee of fifty influential resident members of the University, who are promoting the scheme, are anxious to have the whole of this amount subscribed, before they can communicate to the Senate the plan they would recommend for adoption. The whole subject well deserves the attention of all influential members of the University.

One of the finest collections of engravings that has been offered for sale for some years past is advertised at Messrs. Sotheby and Wilkinson's. The sale is arranged in two divisions, the former consisting of general ancient and modern engravings; the latter of the works of Hollar and Faithorne exclusively. The former list embraces the following rare specimens:—A proof of the *Transfiguration*, after Raffaelle, by Raphael Morghe, in the earliest state, with the white book and the large margin, in the finest condition, from the Verstolk collection; Müller's *Madonna di San Sisto*, a proof in fine condition; *The Aurora*, by Raphael Morghe, after Guido, a fine print before letters; a considerable number of Rembrandts, including the *Hundred Guilder Print*, the *Large Descent from the Cross*, the *Three Trees*, the *Little La Tombe*, and many others, selected with great judgment and taste; a few by Raimondi, as *The Five Saints*, *The Virgin Weeping over the Dead Christ*, *The Parnassus*, from the Maberly and other collections; one of the first *Bolton Abbey* prints, before letters; a fine selection of Woolleets, with the *Fishery*, a proof on India paper before letters; and a great variety of general prints from every class of ancient and modern art, from A. Dürer to Doo, to the number of three hundred and upwards. The Hollar prints amount to 244, and those of Faithorne to about seventy.

The formation of an extensive exhibition of portraits of Scottish Worthies has been for some years contemplated in Edinburgh; and the Scottish Academy has at length determined to carry out the project, which must prove scarcely less interesting in an artistic than an historical point of view. The Academy has acted wisely in recognising how valuable may be the influence of such a display as a stimulus to a higher feeling for historical art, and as auxiliary in an important degree to the encouragement of art in Scotland. Her Majesty has graciously given special patronage to the undertaking, and sanctioned the transmission to Edinburgh of the remarkable paintings at Hampton Court, the portraits of James III. and his queen, attributed to Mabuse, and painted for the royal chapel at Stirling. From the royal collections will also be sent to the exhibition the curious work of art known as the Darnley Picture, a memorial of the tragical death of Henry Darnley. Another painting of a similar subject exists at Goodwood, and it may be hoped that the Duke of Richmond will consent to permit its exhibition with that from the royal collection. The project of the Academy has been entertained with cordial satisfaction by many of the nobility and distinguished owners of historical portraits in Scotland, where a large number of fine examples of art of that class exist, and the Scottish Academy will experience no difficulty in filling the spacious halls in the new buildings adjoining the National Gallery at Edinburgh, the proposed place for this highly interesting exhibition. It is hoped that it may be opened early in July. In various parts of the Continent important collections of portraits have been formed, but in our country no undertaking of a similar kind had hitherto been carried into effect. The Scottish Academy have very happily chosen a moment when public interest has been excited through the recent movement originated by Earl Stanhope. Numerous Scottish portraits exist, doubtless, in various places in England, which would be of essential value for the extension of the historical series contemplated by the Academy in Edinburgh. With the present facilities for safe transmission of works of art, it may be hoped that many of

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these portraits may find their place in the projected Valhalla at Edinburgh.

King Louis of Bavaria, desirous of seeing the Glyptothek in Munich complete, has given directions that the numerous niches on the outside walls, which have hitherto been empty, shall be filled with statues, to be designed and executed by Munich artists.

Professor Raeb, the venerable Prussian sculptor, has just received orders from the King to execute another colossal equestrian statue of Frederick the Great, but of somewhat smaller dimensions than that which he last modelled: its destination is not yet known. It is pleasant to think that an artist considerably upwards of eighty years of age has had the courage to undertake such a work: may he live to see it completed! The same artist has just finished a statue in plaster, nine feet high, of the philosopher Kant: the model is to be forwarded immediately to the foundry, and the statue to be erected, as a memorial to Kant, in the town of Königsberg. Out of the 10,000 dollars necessary to defray the expenses, 6000 have been already paid, and the remaining balance promised. A statue is to be placed in Museum-square, in Antwerp, in honour of Van Dyk; and from Lisbon we learn that the Portuguese, hitherto rather slow to acknowledge by testimonial the merits of their great men, have determined to erect monuments to Vasco di Gama, the discoverer of the sea passage to India, to the poet Camoens, and to Cabral, the discoverer of the Brazils.

The ceremony of laying the first stone of the Votive Church at Vienna was performed, before an immense concourse of people in that city, on the 24th of April. The Emperor, accompanied by almost all the members of the imperial family and dignitaries of the state, civil, military, and ecclesiastic, was present. This church is to be erected in gratitude for the Emperor's escape from assassination a few years ago, and the expense of building to be defrayed by voluntary contributions from his people. Subscriptions have already flowed in to the amount of upwards of a million and a half of florins. As a work of art this church will be a great ornament to Vienna. It is to be in the gothic style, with two towers; to have two altars, besides the high altar, and two oratories in the choir. It is to be capable of holding from four to five thousand people, and to be finished in from twelve to fourteen years.

The Paris papers announce the death of M. Dugornet, an historical painter of real talent, and author of several highly esteemed works—one of which has the honour of figuring in a prominent position at the Louvre. The success of this gentleman in his difficult art is truly extraordinary, for he was born without hands and arms, and painted with his toes. A portrait of this artist in his studio was published some years since in M. Alexandre Vatteneau's 'Album Cosmopolite.'

Plans for the granaries and docks in the Danubian harbours have just been completed by a Mr. Sang, an English architect, and laid before the Emperor of Austria in a private audience, and have met with the fullest approbation. There is little doubt but that they will be carried out.

Gustav König has just completed four very beautiful engravings, taken from 1st, 22nd, and 110th Psalms. Herr König is already celebrated in Germany as a clever and successful illustrator of biblical subjects; the engravings which have just appeared are as remarkable for their religious and poetic conception as for the fineness and delicacy of their execution.

From Rome we learn that the 'Loggia' of the Vatican, which contain the beautiful arabesques and other frescoes of Raphael, are no longer exposed to the influences of the open air; large windows in iron frames have been inserted on the side open to the court, effectually shielding the pictures from the rain. This is better late than never; the frescoes have, however, received irreparable damage.

The colossal statue of Goethe, which now stands in a building in the Park at Weimar, is to be removed and placed in the square before the theatre of that city.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

THE appearance of Madame Alboni in *La Sonnambula* was the event of the week at Her Majesty's Theatre. The occasion was one of peculiar interest, and seldom has greater curiosity been exhibited than to witness the *début* of this great singer as *Amina*. The result was most triumphant. Her wonderful powers rose with the demands of the scene, and she seemed to acquire accumulated force as the opera advanced. Throughout the first and second acts her vocalization was exquisitely pure, melodious, and sweet; but it was in the third act, where the drama makes the heaviest demands upon the resources of the performer, that she achieved an effect which literally threw the house into a ferment of enthusiasm. The finale, transposed a third lower, was executed with surpassing brilliancy, and with an originality and richness of embellishment which a voice of such compass alone, directed by the purest taste, could have produced. Nor was it by these lyrical marvels only that Madame Alboni fascinated her audience. As a piece of dramatic impersonation her *Amina* is admirable. All the fluctuations of the story, from the cheerfulness of the opening, and the deep sorrow which supervenes upon it, to the final outburst of recovered happiness, were portrayed with care and truthfulness. The cast was in other respects excellent. Signor Beneventano was highly successful in *Count Rudolpho*, and the *Elvino* of Calzolari left nothing to be desired. It would be unjust to a performance of considerable merit not to add, that in the small part of *Lisa*, Mdlle. Rizzi made a decided impression, and was encored in one of her songs. A new *divertissement* has been produced, of which we shall have a word to say next week. Mdlle. Piccolomini appears to-night in Verdi's opera, *La Traviata*.

At the Royal Italian Opera, Verdi's *Rigoletto* was produced on Thursday evening, with a cast of unusual excellence—the Duke, Mario; *Rigoletto*, Ronconi; *Sparafucilli*, Tagliavico; the *Count*, Polonini; *Gilda*, Bosio; *Madalena*, Nantier Didée. All the singers were in their best strain, and the opera has rarely been performed with greater effect.

Madame Puzzi's concert, at Willis's Rooms, on Monday, was one of the brilliant gatherings of the musical season, Viardot Garcia, Clara Novello, and the company of Her Majesty's Theatre appearing. On the evening of the same day a concert of a more popular caste attracted a crowded audience at Exeter Hall, for the benefit of Mr. F. Bodda. On Friday last the performance of the *Messiah*, at Exeter Hall, took place for the benefit of the Royal Society of Musicians. This week has been rich in concerts of a high class. On Wednesday Jenny Lind appeared at Mr. Benedict's annual concert, which used to be given at Covent Garden, but this year at Exeter Hall. Mr. C. Halle, Mr. Julio Regondi, Mr. Blagrove, and other performers, have had concerts during the week, but nothing of novelty has occurred to note on these occasions.

At Drury Lane, Rossini's *Cenerentola*, with an English libretto, is given in very fair style, Miss F. Huddart, Miss Dyer, Messrs. Henry Haigh, Manvers, Durand, and Halford, being the chief performers. Mrs. Florence, the clever American actress, appears to great advantage in a piece entitled *Mischief Annie*, in which she sustains a variety of characters. A smarter hornpipe has rarely been danced on any boards, and her imitation of the Spanish dancing is also good.

On Wednesday Madame Ristori, with her Italian dramatic company, is announced to appear at the Lyceum. A lease of that house is to commence after the opera season, for drama, with Mr. Dillon as chief performer.

At Sadler's Wells, a short series of operatic performances, by an English company, led by Mr. Howard Glover, has been given this week, commencing on Monday evening, with the *Bohemian Girl*, Mr. Balfie himself conducting. Mr. and Mrs. Sims Reeves, Miss Poole, and Mr. Weiss, were among the principal performers. Some new

music was introduced by the composer, who had an enthusiastic reception on this his first public appearance for some years. There is better prospect for English opera now than when Mr. Balfie last left this country, and if he could produce a work equal to those that have gained his reputation, we have little doubt of its success.

A new farce, slight in construction, but successful from the cleverness of the acting, has been produced at the Adelphi, under the title of *A Bottle of Smoke*, a free rendering of *Il n'y a pas de fumée sans feu*. Mr. Cambriano (Wright), a wealthy silk mercer, on the point of marrying a pretty flower girl, Lucy Merton (Miss Wyndham), has his quick suspicions aroused by the smell of a cigar, as he supposed, in her room. The results of his jealousy are ludicrously exhibited by Mr. Wright, and Lucy's spirit is admirably expressed in Miss Wyndham's indignant words and conduct. All is made straight, however, by the discovery that Lucy has only been fumigating an invalid fuchsia with tobacco smoke, according to a prescription in the 'Gardener's Chronicle.' In the French piece from which it is adapted, the lady smokes for pleasure, and her attempts to conceal it constitute the fun of the farce.

A grand Fancy Dress Ball is to be given on Friday, the 6th June, at the Hanover-square Rooms, for the benefit of the Funds of the Royal Academy of Music, which, it is expected, will be honoured with the presence of the Queen and several other members of the Royal Family. No gentleman will be admitted except in uniform, court, or fancy dress, and quadrilles of the most picturesque costumes are being arranged.

A 500/- renter's share in Drury-lane Theatre, entitling the holder to a transferable free admission, and to a rent 1s. 3d. per night of performance, was sold at Garraway's this week for 45l.

M. Alexander Corti, who a short time ago was manager of the Italian Opera in Paris, has lately died at Milan.

LEARNED SOCIETIES.

GEOLOGICAL.—March 19th.—D. Sharpe, Esq., President, in the chair. Capt. W. S. Sherwill, the Rev. H. H. Wood, and D. T. Evans, Esq., were elected Fellows. The following communications were read:—1. 'On some Organic Remains from the Bone Bed at the base of the Lias at Lyme Regis,' by the Rev. Mr. Dennis. Communicated by Sir C. Lyell. In this communication the author drew attention to some peculiar bones and teeth from the Bone-bed which occurs between the Trias and the Lias. Mr. Dennis considered that some of these fossils presented mammalian structure under the microscope. Among the specimens from the Lyne Regis bone-bed, Professor Owen determined the remains of *Lepidotus* and *Saurichthys*, and of another fish, *Placodus*, which had not previously been recognised among British fossils. 2. 'On the Valenciennes Coal-basin,' by M. Laurent. In a letter to A. Tylor, Esq. This communication referred to the works in the coal-basin of the departments of the Nord and the Pas de Calais, on the prolongation of the Belgian basin of Mons. At the end of the last century, France in the north possessed only the mines of Auzin, which were first worked in 1716. This state of things lasted until 1832, when the workings only extended to Denain. In 1839, the concessions of Douchy, Bruelle, Vicoigne, Auiche, Agincourt, and Thioncelles were made. The works of research went on until 1841, at which period the adventurers, disengaged by the numerous fruitless attempts made in the supposed direction of the basin towards Arras, abandoned them. Six years later, the works undertaken towards the north-west of Douai, in the direction of the present concessions of the Pas de Calais, indicated the true direction of the coal-basin; and down to 1854, numerous trial-sinkings, of which many passed through the coal, led to the establishment of nine new concessions; and a tenth, on the border of the basin, is in progress. Two more also have been made this year (1855), one to the north of Douai, the other to the north of Bethune, above

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Choques, where they suppose that the bands of dry coal (*faiseau maigre*) end, the basin beyond this place becoming narrower, and representing only the seams of caking coal in all the concessions to the west. Many works have, moreover, been undertaken in the course of the last three years, in search of a widening of the basin by the series of the seams of caking coal, and of an extension of the dry-coal band, which disappears at Choques. With the exception of those made by the Vendin Company, these sinkings have as yet given only negative results. In all the sinkings which have been made from Valenciennes to the furthest of these researches, the chalk forms the (*mort terrain*) head, and with a varying thickness. As far as Aire the chalk alone forms the rock which has to be passed through before reaching the coal, from which it is separated by a bed of green-sand from 1 to 3 metres in thickness, known by the name of 'tourtia.' On the north of Aire it is, in addition, covered up by tertiary deposits, alternations of sands and clays, with a thickness in places of 100 to 150 metres, and which render it necessary to line the sinkings as the work advances. This formation is found even in Belgium, at St. Ghislain, near Mons, with a thickness of 60 metres. The average thickness of the overlying beds is 140 metres. It seldom exceeds 180 metres, and was found to be only 85 metres at Marles, near Bethune. It is near this town that the depth to the base of the chalk is the greatest; the sinkings which have been conducted on the south gave a result at a smaller depth. Nearly 2,000,000 francs have been expended by various companies, all formed of private persons; and in more than 150 sinkings numerous workings have resulted, which have increased beyond all expression the wealth of these two departments, have developed a portion of the coal-field of France, and enriched on a grand scale the fortunate adventurers. The small basin of Fienne and Hardingham, near Guisnes, is independent of this large one; it is a coal-deposit in the mountain limestone, and which has been worked for some time past for local consumption; the coal is found at a slight depth, but the quantity of water renders the workings both difficult and expensive. Similar works are being carried on in the department of the Moselle, where they are tracing the prolongation of the Sarrebrück basin beneath the New Red Sandstone. Eight companies have already met with the coal between 200 and 300 metres in depth, and are applying for concessions. It is in this quarter and in the department Nord that the principal search is now being made. This letter was accompanied by an outline map of the district referred to, on which were shown the extent of the several concessions, the position and character of the most important of the borings, and approximatively the length and breadth of the Valenciennes coal-basin as indicated by the workings hitherto effected. 3. 'On the Sandstones and Breccias of the South of Scotland of an Age subsequent to the Carboniferous Formation,' by Professor Harkness. The author first referred to a former paper, in which he had described in detail some of these sandstones and breccias, especially those of the neighbourhood of Dumfries. He then gave his reasons for regarding the sandstones of Annan, in the south-east of Dumfriesshire, to be continuous with, and of the same age as, those of Carlisle—viz. of the Triassic age, and pointed out several patches of sandstone and breccia in other parts of Dumfriesshire, and in Ayrshire, which lie either on the Carboniferous or the Lower Silurian rocks of the district, and are probably referable to the Permian epoch. These sandstones and breccias appear to have been deposited subsequently to the eruption of the trap-dykes that have dislocated the coal-fields of central Scotland, and to have been always derived from the neighbouring older rocks. The author divides them into four distinct groups—viz. 1st (the lowest), breccias and sandstones, best seen in the course of the Kinnel Water and at Balloch-moyle in Ayrshire; 2ndly, sandstones, for the most part false-bedded, well seen in the Corncockle area, the Thornhill district, at Mauchline, and in the vicinity of Dumfries; 3rdly, hard thick breccias,

best seen at the Craigs, Dumfries; and 4thly, thin-bedded sandstone, only slightly developed, occurring at Castledikes, Dumfries, above the breccia. Animal life abounded, in the form of reptiles, during the period of the deposition of these Permian beds, as evidenced by the numerous impressions of foot-tracks of Cheloniens, Lizards, and Batrachians, which walked over the shores of the Permian waters, when the sandstones of Corncockle Muir and Dumfries were sandy beaches with mud-patches scattered over them. Mr. Harkness regards the several patches or areas of the rocks in question as having once been connected in a mass of great superficial extent; and he thinks it probable that the denudation which is supposed to have removed the greater portion took place in the Pleistocene epoch, the preservation of the isolated patches being due to local subsidences.

LINNEAN.—April 15th.—Thomas Bell, Esq., President, in the chair. Frederick Currey, Esq., M.A., was elected a Fellow. Among the presents on the table was a set of 50 beautifully-executed folio plates, illustrating the general characteristics of Brazilian vegetation, presented by Dr. Von Martius, Foreign Member of the Society. Read:—1. An Extract of a Letter from Mr. R. Spruce, addressed to Mr. Bentham, giving some account of the neighbourhood of Tarapota, in Peru, from whence the letter is dated, and of its vegetation. 2. A Note on *Obolaria virginica*, L., by Asa Gray, M.D. 3. A Note on the Chinese Insect-wax, by Mr. Daniel Hanbury, accompanied by specimens of the wax, the insect, and the plant on which it is found. 4. Notice of a species of *Coccus*, producing wax, and of the wax obtained from it, by J. C. Westwood, Esq., F.L.S. 5. The commencement of a Memoir 'On several Instances of the Anomalous Development of the Raphe in Seeds, and the probable Causes of such deviations from the usual course of structure, especially in reference to the *Urandra* of Thwaites, with some prefatory remarks on that genus,' by Mr. John Miers.

GEOGRAPHICAL.—May 12th.—Rear-Admiral F. W. Beechey, President, in the chair. Lieutenant M. F. Maury, of the United States Navy, and Commodore Irminger, of the Royal Danish Navy, were elected Corresponding Fellows; and Mr. Charles Churchill, Dr. Robert Ferguson, Mr. Jas. Hewitt, and Rear-Admiral Rich, were elected Ordinary Fellows of the Society. The discussion on Mr. Kelley's paper, 'On the connexion between the Atlantic and Pacific *via* the Atrato and Truando Rivers,' which was adjourned from the last meeting, was opened by the President, who called upon the Secretary to read a letter addressed to Mr. Kelley by Baron Humboldt, expressing his strong conviction of the possibility, as well as the desirability, of executing this important work.

ENTOMOLOGICAL.—May 5th.—W. W. Saunders, Esq., President, in the chair. Mr. Janson exhibited three specimens of *Hetaerius quadratus*, a beetle hitherto unrecorded as British, found by him in ants' nests at Hampstead. Mr. Stevens exhibited a fine male specimen of *Petasia nubeculosa* recently taken in Perthshire, and a beautiful specimen of *Aleuicus pictaria* from Dartford Heath; also the sexes of a *Pausus*, sent from Natal by Mr. Plant, which were interesting from the sexes of these insects not having been previously discriminated. Captain Cox exhibited a specimen of *Acherontia Atropos* found in the hospital at Scutari; also some beautiful drawings of the larvae of Lepidoptera, by Mrs. Cox. Mr. Bond exhibited the case-bearing larva of *Coleophora Wockella*, found on *Betonica officinalis*, in a wood near Canterbury. Mr. Scott sent for exhibition *Elachista Tanidella*, a species new to Britain, bred from larvae found last autumn on *Brachypodium sylvaticum*. Mr. Curtis communicated some notes on the economy of *Gonepteryx Rhamni*, by Dr. Maclean, of Colchester. Mr. Douglas read a translation of a paper in 'Guerin's Revue et Magasin de Zoologie' for December last, on *Epura Lenegatensis*; the silk produced by this

spider, it is considered, might be employed for many purposes for which the produce of the silk-worm is at present too expensive. Mr. Smith read some observations on the species of the genus *Stylops*.

BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL.—May 14th.—S. R. Solly, F.R.S., Vice-President, in the chair. Edward Dixon, Esq., of Wilton House, Southampton, and G. M. Hughes, Esq., of St. Swithin's Lane, were elected Associates. Mr. Gunston exhibited a *Chalcos* of *Mamertina*, in Sicily, found in the Holloway-road. This is not the only instance of the asserted discovery of Greek coins in London, and must be regarded with suspicion. Mr. Gibbs laid before the meeting a beautiful medal struck in commemoration of Queen Anne's grant of the First Fruits and Tents to augment the incomes of the Poor Clergy. It was struck in 1704. Captain Tupper exhibited a bronze javelin head and a pot-formed celt, found in England; also two fint arrow-heads and two stone axes, found at Belfast. Mr. Pettigrew read notes on the seal of an extinct abbey at Louth Park, Lincolnshire, with some particulars relating to its foundation. Mr. Syer Cuming read a supplementary paper on Relics of Charles I., and exhibited a fine specimen of point lace mitten said to have been worn by the monarch when baptized. He described the armour presented to him, when created Prince of Wales, by the Armourers' Company, now in the Tower. It was the suit laid on the coffin of the Duke of Marlborough when his interment took place in Westminster Abbey. A variety of relics were described and some exhibited, among the latter several specimens of ornaments having portions of the hair of the king. Mr. Thompson exhibited a fine miniature of the Queen Henrietta Maria on copper, attributed to Vandyke. Mr. Jobbins read a very amusing and interesting paper on the 'History of Spoons,' tracing this useful domestic implement from its earliest time among the Egyptians to the present time. He illustrated his paper by various fine specimens, among which was a set of ten apostle spoons, silver gilt, and drawings of the varied forms observed in different countries and at different periods.

SOCIETY OF ARTS.—May 21st.—T. F. Gibson, Esq., F.G.S., in the chair. The following members were elected,—Captain Thomas Miller, R.N., Col. George Twemlow, and Messrs. R. Bentley and A. Taylor. The paper read was 'The British Silk Manufacture considered in its Commercial Aspects,' by Mr. T. Winkworth.

NUMISMATIC.—April 24th.—W. S. W. Vaux, Esq., President, in the chair. Dr. Löwe read a paper 'On Jewish coins, chiefly of Simon Macabeus.'

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

Monday—Geographical, 1 p.m.—(Anniversary.) Architectural Museum, 7 p.m.—(On the Varieties of Stone used for Architectural Carving.)
Tuesday—Civil Engineers, 9 p.m.—(Conversazione.) Arundel Society.—(Annual Meeting.) Medical and Chirurgical, 3 p.m.
Zoological, 9 p.m.
Royal Institution, 3 p.m.—(T. A. Malone, Esq., on Photography.)
Wednesday—Botanic, 2 p.m.—(Ex.) Entomological, 3 p.m.—(Anniversary.) Microscopical, 8 p.m.
R. S. Literature, 8 p.m.
Geological, 8 p.m. Postponed from Wednesday last.—(1. On the Silurian Rocks of Wigtonshire. By J. C. Moore, Esq., F.G.S. 2. On the Influence of the Ocean Currents on the Formation of Strata. By C. Babbage, Esq.) Communicated by Dr. Flitton, F.G.S.)
British Archaeological, 8 p.m.—(Mr. Pettigrew on the Antiquities of the Isle of Wight.)
Society of Arts, 8 p.m.—(Mr. W. Fekin. The History and Present State of the Machine-wrought Lace Trade.)
Thursday—Numismatic, 7 p.m.
Antiquaries, 8 p.m.
Royal Institution, 3 p.m.—(Prof. Tyndall on Light.)
Friday—Botanic, 3 p.m.—(Lecture.) Royal Institution, 8 p.m.—(Dr. Lyon Playfair on the Chemical Principles involved in Agricultural Experiments.)
Saturday—Botanic, 4 p.m.
Medical, 8 p.m.
Royal Institution, 3 p.m.—(Dr. A. W. Hofmann on the Non-Metallic Elements, their Manufacture and Application.)

VARIETIES.

SARDINIA IN 1764.—At the present moment, when Sardinia occupies so large a share of public attention, it is interesting to look back to what Gibbon the historian says about it nearly a century ago. In passing through Turin, in 1764, after speaking of Charles Emmanuel, as holding "the second rank among the kings of Europe," the first being Frederick the Great, he makes the following remarks on the House of Savoy:—"I must say two words regarding Turin, and the sovereign who reigns there. When we regard the slow and successive accessions of the House of Savoy during eight hundred years, it must be admitted that its grandeur has been rather the work of prudence than of fortune. It supports itself in the same spirit as it has been created—by wisdom, order, and economy. With the worst portion of the Alps, a plain, fertile, but very contracted, and miserable island, which annually produces—shall I say?—or costs, him 100,000 livres, the King of Sardinia has obtained a place among the powers of Europe. He possesses strong places, an army which he has extended to 50,000 men, and a numerous and brilliant court. In every department a spirit of activity is visible, regulated by an order which seeks both to make the most of advantageous circumstances, and to create them. Science, arts, buildings, manufactures, are all attended to; even navigation is not neglected. The king intends to make a fine harbour of Nice, and has invited an English captain, Atkins, to employ him in his growing marine, which at present consists only of a vessel of fifty guns and a frigate of thirty."

Many persons are annoyed at the use of the word *medium* by the believers in spirit-rapping, as an illiterate form of the plural. The late Lord Avonmore always contended for the English termination in such cases, in preference to the classical. On one occasion his lordship, in giving evidence relative to certain certificates of degrees in the University of Dublin, called them (as they are commonly called) *testimonials*. As the clerk was writing down the word, one of the counsel said, "Should it not be rather *testimonia*?" "Yes," replied Lord Avonmore, "if you think it better English."

To CORRESPONDENTS.—JN. MY.; J. C.; T. B. K.; J. S. H.; C. R. S. received.

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